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THE  
NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

“Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground.”

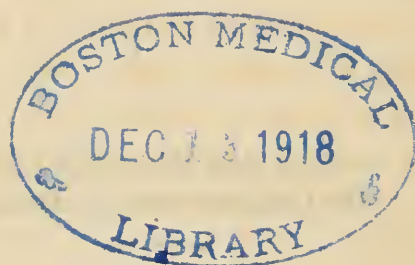
CALVIN NEWTON, M. D.,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME IV.

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WORCESTER:  
PUBLISHED BY CALVIN NEWTON, M. D.,  
Corner of Front and Carlton Streets.  
1850.



## P R E F A C E.

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL has now completed its fourth volume. Immediately preceding it, also, was a volume of like form and character—THE NEW ENGLAND MEDICAL ECLECTIC AND GUIDE TO HEALTH. We have, therefore, been five years engaged as a medical editor.

During this period, our aim has been undivided ;—our publication has been devoted directly and exclusively to the object of spreading the Physo-medical practice or a system of purely innocent and sanative medication. If the policy which we have pursued has sometimes seemed to vary, the cause has been a change of circumstances in community around. We have sought to increase the popularity of medical truth. We have endeavored to direct the attention of fathers, mothers, and children to the important study of their own constitutions, and to induce them to think for themselves in matters of medicine. To some extent, our purpose has been effected. Still, however, much remains yet to be done. Annually, thousands on thousands of lives are sacrificed to medical ignorance. Persons yield themselves up to be treated after the poisonous and depleting manner, simply because, in their prejudice, they have supposed every departure from Allopathy to be, of reality, some form of empiricism,—not considering that Allopathy itself is really the most destructive form of quackery now in being, and the immediate cause of more deaths than all other medical errors combined.

Under these circumstances, if God spares our life another year, we shall pursue the even tenor of our way, still combatting, as we may be able, every thing, which, in our view, opposes itself to medical truth and the best physical interests of our race.

We are happy in saying, that the change, which, at the commencement of the current year, was made, in the dress and style of the Journal, has met with *almost* universal approbation.

EDITOR.





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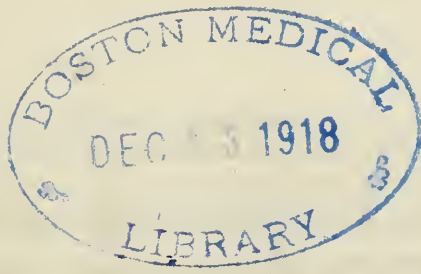


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## ERRATA.

By some unaccountable over-sight, the pages of the present volume, which should be numbered from 129 to 136, are numbered from 125 to 132. Our readers will, therefore, correct the error for themselves. The references in the *index* are to the pages, *as they should be*. This, with some other errors, has been greatly to our mortification; but, in the hurry of professional engagements, no one can always be certain of being right. EDITOR.





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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., JANUARY 1, 1850.

NO. 1.

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Communications.

—:—

THE SUCCESS OF OUR PRACTICE.—ENCOURAGEMENT.

DR. NEWTON:—

Dear Sir:—Having learned from your Journal, that you are about to convert it, from a semi-monthly to a monthly publication, and to make it more what the wants of the profession demand, I have new impulses of hope and satisfaction, to think that so much interest has been and still is felt in the cause of reform in medicine. It is long since I came to the conclusion, that such a reform is very much needed in the world; and, if permitted to live, it will be long before I shall be otherwise than in favor of *radical* reform.

I have, several times, been brought back from the borders of the grave by botanic medicines, administered in accordance with my own directions. And, more than this, I have saved a large number of my neighbors and friends from death, even after professedly learned old-school doctors, of the highest grade, have given them up to die. I have had patients, under these circumstances, come to me from the hands of Dr. Green of Worcester, Dr. D. Smith of Providence, Dr. Negus and Dr. Tenney of Webster, Dr. Hartwell and Dr. Smith of Southbridge, Dr. Holman and Dr. Paine of Oxford, and Dr. Knights of Dudley.

In one case, my patient informed me, that he had employed seven *old regulars*, when in New Jersey, but all to no valuable purpose, and only to his injury. In all the cases to which I here refer, I was called to see the patients, and try the botanic practice with them, after the Allopathists had exhausted all their skill. They are all now well.

One was the case of a fever-sore, on the leg. Several of the physicians wished to remove the limb, by amputation, as they said it never could be healed. I have still, in my care, their certificates to this effect.

Sir, I have never enjoyed the privilege of attending Lectures, at a medical College, but I have taken all the pains, which my limited means would allow, to gain professional information. Hence, I find myself with a good library, containing books both on the botanic and on the mineral practice. Besides, I have obtained a good share of knowledge from an old Indian doctor, which, in addition to what I have learned from books, and otherwise, has been of service to me.

I am not now in practice, but am on the eve of re-entering it. My health is now good, so that I hope yet to be of some use to the sick. Please give us all the light you can on the science of medicine.

I herein enclose one dollar for the Journal, to be continued to me another year. Accept my thanks, while I remain, your truly well-wisher,

MERRICK SLY.

Pascoag, R. I., Dec. 10th, 1849.



## ALLOPATHY THE PROGENITOR OF QUACKERY.

Since the transgression by our first parents, in Eden, disease and death have been preying upon man. What his previous condition was, it matters not,—inasmuch as the whole family have become infected with the virus, and will, eventually, meet their doom. Still, it is man's nature, when suffering, to seek relief. This, undoubtedly, gave rise to the science of medicine. Yet, for many centuries, disease and death were so uncommon, that, not only man lived to a great age, but so dense became the population, that the ALL-WISE saw fit, in course of time, by a mighty deluge, to sweep from the earth nearly all its inhabitants.

“In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die”—still held as true, in the family of Noah, as of Adam, and remains the eternal decree for generations yet unborn. Notwithstanding all which had been said, the warnings and counsels given, and the examples illustrating, and notwithstanding the life of man was shortened down, from several hundred years to as many scores; yet, as the frightened boatman, instead of making for the nearest shore, launches out into the deep and buoyant waters, trusting that, perchance, some frail bark may take him up, and save his life, though it may set him on shore, in some sultry clime, where life is hardly worth possessing, so were the researches of man to the end of the eighteenth century; and all this time, surely, might, with great propriety, have been called the dark ages, when Allopathy swayed the world. Poison, with whatever it may be combined, has in it the seeds of death. Fifty years since, and but few articles were deemed medicines, which, in themselves, were not poisonous. The experience, the human sacrifice, the learning, and science of so many centuries, all combined, did not satisfy the medicine men, that their remedies were worse than the disease; but the patient's life's blood must be drawn, to disarm nature of her strength, like Samson, shorn of his locks.

The diseases, which have driven the learned world to such straits for remedies, are as numerous and diversified as the organs of the body; and the causes, as enumerated by medical writers, are numberless and conflicting. Take, for example, dyspepsia. Dr. Mackintosh says, “Dyspepsia may arise from various causes. Perhaps

the following are the principal causes:—First, from simple derangement of the stomach, duodenum, liver, spleen, or pancreas; second, from indigestible and acrid substances, taken into the stomach; third, from structural derangement, in the digestive apparatus; fourth, from long continued constipation; fifth, from derangement in other important organs.”

The inquiry may be raised, What are the causes of Dr. Mackintosh's causes? The inquiry is important, and should be examined. A full exposition of this, and other “causes,” I doubt not, would explode the Allopathic system of medical practice, and convince the world, that they may better let alone that, respecting which, the God of Nature and Revelation has said, If “thou eatest,” “thou shalt surely die.”

Then for the secret of so much vain speculation, on the lives and healths of human beings. The first, or primary cause, is behind the curtain. Symptoms, when secondary causes only are considered, may be removed, for the time being, in many cases, by means which it would be the height of folly to depend upon, or to employ, if the real, or first cause, was understood. For example;—the man who, having long been accustomed to the use of a regular dram, neglects it, experiences stupor, drowsiness, restlessness, indigestion, and many other symptoms of disease, as the consequence. In his distress, he takes his cup, and at once finds a balm. From this, many have considered ardent spirits as necessary to health. But, in this day of light, there is no occasion to say that this course is presumptuous.

In the same way, we might refer to the use of opium. Instead of removing, it engenders disease, and often prepares its votaries for the most excruciating sufferings, that flesh and blood are heirs to. And, although it will give relief, who, that claims to possess reason, and common sense, will persist in its deadening and stupefying use?

On the same principle, all narcotic and corrosive poisons, should, as we regard the decree of Heaven, our own good, and the sufferings of humanity, be studiously avoided.

Disregard this direction, and you lay the foundation for quack nostrums, in which our country abounds. The human family have, to a great extent, been inoculated with the deadly virus, until some



one, or more, of almost every family, is seriously affected. And, since the first cause of a majority of cases is the same, the same quack medicines, will, in different cases, give present relief. Thus, Brandreth's Pills, and a thousand other like medicines, are palmed upon the public, only, in reality, to assist the dupes of quackery, to fill up their measure of pain and suffering.

Northbridge, Dec., 1849.

R. CUMMINGS.

## THE PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

It is evident, that medicine, as a science, has been more neglected, by the community, than any other science. Strange as it may appear, people, when in health, have not, until within a few years, interested themselves to inquire into the best means of preventing or removing disease. These matters were supposed to belong to the physician, and to be above the comprehension of the common people. Such views were strengthened by the course pursued by the medical profession; as they studiously avoided giving any information by which the people might become informed on the subject of medicine, and thus be able to judge for themselves, what course is requisite to preserve health, and what remedies are required to assist nature in removing disease. The physician was, in all cases, left to pursue his own course, however much his prescriptions might thwart the recuperative efforts of nature. If the doctor said the remedy was adapted to the disease, it must be given, though the worst effects might be produced, by its administration. This was the state of feeling, and this the course pursued for ages. We are far from supposing, that a similar state of things does not, to some extent, exist at the present time.

It is evident, however, that the people have been aroused from their lethargy, and that they now claim for themselves the right of inquiring into the subject of medicine, and of employing that practice, which seems to them most in accordance with the laws of the human constitution. I am very far from entertaining, with Dr.

Thomson, and some others, the belief, that every man can, with propriety, become his own physician. Yet, I can see no reason why the matters of our profession should be kept from the people.

It must be gratifying to every friend of humanity, to witness the rapid progress in medical reform. It is but about fifty years, since the reform commenced in this country; and then, by a man possessing only good common sense to guide him in his researches after truth. The progress of reform, in consequence, was, for years, but slow.

Within the last few years, however, men of science and energy of character have enlisted in the cause, and the results of their labors have been gratifying, beyond their most sanguine expectations. Medical Colleges have been established, in different sections of the country, and many of them are well sustained. Hundreds of young men have been educated in the principles of the reformed practice, and have gone out into the world, to spread, broadcast, the light of medical truth. Just in proportion as we send out those who "study to show themselves workmen that need not be ashamed," shall we witness the permanent advancement of medical reform.

In no way can we expect prosperity and eminence, as a sect, in medicine, without an educated profession. It will not avail, to say, that others before us have, uneducated, accomplished much. It is true, indeed, that great good has been done in the world, by uneducated men. By them, many of the great reforms, that have blessed the world, have been commenced. This is true, in relation to the different improved systems of medical practice. The founders of both the Homœopathic and Hydropathic systems, were uneducated men. It is also true, in reference to the Botanic system. It may be said, with truth, that Samuel Thomson was the founder of the reformed practice, in this country. But it is equally true, that it requires men of a different stamp, to perfect it. By whom have the vast improvements, on this system, been made? Not by any one man, surely, but by the combined talents, and learning of different individuals. And, with all these aids, the system has not yet been brought to perfection. Where are we to look for still further improvements, but to the profession? It is evident, that the profession must be educated, in order to accom-



plish that which is expected of them. Such a profession we need ; such an one, we can have, and must have. There is no necessity for a young man's entering the profession unqualified, when there are Colleges, all over the country, established for the express purpose of educating men for the reformed practice of medicine. It is an encouraging fact, that our young men are disposed duly to qualify themselves, before engaging in the practical duties of the profession. Another encouraging fact is, that many who have been for some time in practice, are willing to leave their business, for a time, in order to avail themselves of the facilities now offered them for obtaining a medical education. There is a laudable ambition manifested to elevate the standard of professional education ; and we may consider this as ominous of our future prosperity. Let our physicians be educated, and let them plant themselves upon the rock of principle ; then will their talents be appreciated, and themselves amply sustained. The time has come, when the public mind is prepared to do this, and to give to every man his just due. This should be a sufficient inducement, to the student in medicine, to qualify himself, so as to secure the confidence, and meet the wants of the community.

S. CUTLER.

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## A GLANCE AT THE REFORMED PRACTICE.

Having, during the past year, had an opportunity of becoming extensively acquainted with the present state and future prospects of the reformed practice of medicine, in this section of country, it affords me much pleasure in being able to say, that the prospects are, in the highest degree, encouraging. In visiting different sections of New England, and New York, my most sanguine expectations have been more than realized, in witnessing the advanced state of the reform in medicine.

In almost every principal town and city, there is, at least, one physician,—often more,—of there formed school, and still there is a great demand for an increased number. The community are having less and less confidence in the mineral practice, and, as a con-

sequence, many of the Old-School physicians, are living without patronage, in places where Botanic physicians do a good business,—so deeply rooted in the minds of the people, have the principles of reform in medicine become.

In looking back ten years, the careful observer must be surprised to witness the great change, which has taken place. At that time, there were but few in this community who ventured to adopt, to to any extent, the Botanic or Eclectic practice, while, at present, a large proportion of the people are decidedly in favor of this mode of treatment. A physician of the old School, in the city of Boston, acknowledged to me, a few months since, that, so far as his knowledge extended, a majority of the community, were in favor of the reformed system of medicine.

There are some of this number who are, after all, deterred from employing our practice, for fear of offending some of their friends: But these prejudices of those who oppose us are fast giving way; and, if we may judge of the future, from the past, it will be but a few years, before this opposition will cease. One important reason why these prejudices still exist, is, the fact that the practice has formerly been in the hands of incompetent men. The influences of our medical Colleges, and of educated men, must and will accomplish the final triumphs of truth, in the science of medicine. The friends of the cause feel this, and hence, they have come up to the support of our medical Institutions, with a liberality worthy the great cause in which they are engaged.

The establishment of the Worcester Medical Institution has been the means of accomplishing an amount of good, which, perhaps, could not have been accomplished in any other way. In order to show how the friends of the reformed practice regard this Institution, it is only necessary to say, that, during the past year, I have, as agent, received pledges for it to the amount of between six and seven thousand dollars. And there is also another encouraging fact, connected with raising this amount. It is this, that almost every friend to whom the subscription has been presented, has readily subscribed to the extent of his ability.

There are, aside from the above Institution, several other reformed medical Colleges, established in different sections of the country, and in a flourishing condition. At the one recently established at

Syracuse, N. Y., and whose first Course of Lectures is now being given, there are from seventy-five to one hundred students. Their prospects are very encouraging. There are also in the South and West, several Colleges that teach the doctrines of the reformed practice, and some of them are in flourishing conditions.

Another means of accomplishing much good is our medical Journals. These diffuse truth, on the science of medicine, as nothing else can do. The people, the whole people, may be instructed, and benefited by these publications. Every family ought to take a medical paper.

There are several valuable medical Journals advocating the reformed practice ; among which are the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, Worcester, Mass., the Physiologico-Medical Recorder, and the Eclectic Medical Journal, Cincinnati, Ohio, and the New York Eclectic Medical and Surgical Journal, Syracuse, N. Y.

S. CUTLER.

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## TUBERCULA OR SCROFULA.

The Pills and Plaster recommended in the following communication, are for sale at our office ; as are also Morse's Magnetic Machines. The price of the pills, per box, is \$7 ; of the Plaster, \$2 The Machines of the largest size, are \$14 each.

The Pills and Plaster, are intended as a kind of second edition of Dr. Sherwood's ; and, if they prove as valuable, we shall not forbear to recommend them. We are satisfied of the correctness of Dr. S. principles ; and are confident that the remedies recommended will accomplish something, not *everything*, in the cure of tuberculous disease. *Editor.*

---

A specific for this disease has long been needed and much sought after. We believe that something which is entitled to that character has been offered to the profession. It is a preparation of Aurum, by Dr. S. Morse, of New York, which, merely to designate it, he has termed the Dynamic Pills.

The first great difficulty, which has lain in the way of the cure of this disease, is believed to be the erroneous impressions of its nature entertained by the profession. A word or two must suffice



for the present occasion on this point. The first great mistake which is frequently made is this,—that, as when this disease affects different organs, it produces different effects, to suit those, the treatment must be varied; while the truth is, it should, in each case, be the same.

To briefly illustrate this:—In consumption, the lungs contain tubercles. Upon dissection, they are displayed to our view; and it is too plain a case of disease for its nature to be mistaken.

But now take another case—a person is affected by St. Vitus' dance. The disease has become chronic. How many have ever heard of the treatment's being the same as in consumption? Yet the disease is the same. One is tubercular disease of the lungs; the other tubercular disease of the medulla oblongata,—and the former is easier to cure than the latter.

In consumption the disease is more distinctly marked, and not to be mistaken, because the tubercles are large; while, in the latter case, the medulla only appears slightly swollen or enlarged, covered by what appears like a fine rash. It would generally be termed a sub-acute, or chronic inflammation.

Before tubercles can be formed in the lungs, tubercular disease must be in the system. That disease, when it attacks the lungs, generally begins on its membranes, in the form of a sub-acute inflammation; and they appear covered with this fine rash. One is tubercular disease, the other, tubercles developed. What will cure the latter will cure the former.

If, then, these things be true, how shall we distinguish tubercular disease in the various organs, when so widely different effects are produced by it, according as it attacks different parts of the body? A statement of one or two facts will enable us to see how it may be done.

The serous membranes, including the outer covering of the body, called the skin, excrete a fluid that is more or less acid, and the mucous membranes a fluid that is more or less alkaline. They are sometimes so strongly acid and alkaline as to excite the curiosity of the most common observer. The acid is the muriatic, and the alkali soda and muriate of soda, or common salt. Each of these two kinds of matter gives out constantly an innate and different kind of force; that from the serous membrane is called positive, and



that from the mucous membrane negative. These two forces are similar in their nature, and correspond to the positive and negative forces of the magnetic battery, and they constitute the power that moves the body.

The posterior branches of the spinal nerves are connected with and terminate in the serous membranes, or serous surfaces of the body, organs, and limbs, including the skin and *faciæ* of the muscles, and are the media of sensation. The anterior spinal nerves are connected with and terminate in the mucous surfaces, and are the media of motion.

Now, when either tubercles are formed in an organ, or tubercular disease affects it, the serous membranes appertaining to that organ, as well as the substance of the organ itself, will be more or less thickened, swollen, or hypertrophied; and then, if we press on the appropriate ganglion, where the spinal nerve leads from it to the part affected, such pressure will produce more or less pain or tenderness. Whenever it is so diseased, it does not give off negative matter enough to maintain the body in a healthy state; and whenever this is the case, it produces but one result, and that is tubercular disease.

The remedy, then, must be from negative medicines, if at all. Medicines which act upon the body are either positive like the alkalies, or negative, like the acids;—that is, they are of opposite dynamic character. Their combination is also varied by the predominance of one of these forces over the other; for every medicine is imbued with two forces, one of which prevails over the other, and determines its character as positive or negative. In some, it is very great; while, in others, it is very small. These powers can be greatly exalted by proper processes of magnetizing them.

A case or two is added, merely to illustrate what has been offered. Miss M——, residing at No. 8, State street, New York city, in February, 1849, took a severe cold. Soon after, she was taken with severe fits of coughing, every morning, when she would raise large quantities of pus. In March, she became sensible of a change, for the worse. In May, she called at my office. On examining her, I found a large abscess had formed on her right lung.

For some time previous, she had had night sweats. She could not lie down in bed, and had to sleep in a sitting posture. I prescribed the Dynamic Pills and Bituminous Plaster. She soon began to gain strength, her cough ceased, and she is now entirely well.

Now, take a different form of tubercular disease, by way of illustration. Master Richard Tendal, residing at 259 1-2, Hudson street, New York city, fell from a chair, and struck the back of his head. He was subject to fits, from that time, (some seven years ago,) till May, 1849, when he commenced the use of the Dynamic Pills and Bituminous Plaster. The fits grew less frequent, and have now entirely ceased. This was a case of tubercular disease of the medulla oblongata and cerebellum, supposed to be occasioned, in part, by the fall, (though the first cause was probably a scrofulous diathesis,) and is the most difficult of any of the forms of tubercular disease, to cure. It may be proper to add that, previously to trying these remedies, many medicines had been tried without any cure of the disease.

TUBERCULAR DISEASE OF THE MEDULLA OBLONGATA AND CEREBELLUM, CURED BY THE USE OF THE DYNAMIC PILLS.

Rev. Mr. — was subject to various nervous paroxysms, such as violent muscular contractions, frequent trembling, &c.; and finally his mind became deranged. He was placed in a lunatic asylum for one year, without any benefit. Last May, I examined him. Pressure over the intervertebral spaces of the first and second cervical vertebræ produced pain. This showed, that the medulla and cerebellum were diseased; and, whenever these symptoms are present, it shows, for obvious reasons, that it is tubercular disease. I accordingly prescribed the Dynamic Pills. He soon began to improve; and, in September following, was well, and able to return to his duties as a pastor.

Many further illustrations might be here adduced, to explain the true nature of tubercula. But time will not permit, at present. In the interval, we recommend to all who may be affected, to try the Dynamic Pills, and Bituminous Plaster, for tubercula or scrofula.

In determining the locality of tuberculous disease, the following are directions to be observed.

In order to determine whether a person is affected with tubercu-

lar disease, and, if so what particular organ or organs are affected, press with the thumb and finger on the intervertebral spaces along each side of the spine. If the person has the disease, there will be a place or places where the pressure will produce more or less pain, when the disease is active; when the disease is passive it will sometimes be a mere tenderness; when, however, it is active, it will dart into the diseased organ with a violence that increases with the intensity of the disease.

Press with the thumb on the *sides* of the 1 cervical vertebra to find symptoms of tubercula of the head, cerebellum, brain, throat, nose, eyes, or ears.

Press on the *sides* of the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 cervical, to find tubercula of the muscles (rheumatism), or the vertebræ, or of the joints of the limbs,—white swellings, &c.

Press on the sides of the intervertebral space between the 7 cervical, and 1 dorsal, to find tubercula of the lungs; and

Press on the left side of the same space to find tubercula of the heart.

Press on the space between the 1 and 2 *dorsal* vertebræ to find tubercula of the stomach.

Press between the 2 and 3 *dorsal*, to find tubercula of the duodenum.

Press between the 3 and 4 dorsal, to find tubercula of the colon.

Press between the 4 and 5 dorsal, to find tubercula of the pancreas.

Press between the 6 and 7 dorsal, to find tubercula of the omentum.

Press on the right side of space between the 7 and 8 dorsal, to find tubercula of the liver, and on the left side to find tubercula of the spleen.

Press between the 8 and 9 dorsal, to find tubercula of the diaphragm.

Press between the 9 and 10 dorsal, to find tubercula of the peritoneum.

Press on the spaces between the 11 and 12 dorsal, to find tubercula of the small intestines.

Press on the spaces between the 12 dorsal and 1 lumbar, to find tubercula of the kidneys.



Press on the spaces between the 1 and 4 lumbar, to find tubercula of the uterus, ovaria, prostate gland, vesiculæ seminales, or testes.

Press on the spaces between the 4 lumbar and os coccyx, to find tubercula of vagina, &c.

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### MEDICAL PLANTS IN DINWIDDIE COUNTY, VA.

- Alnus serrulata*—astringent, tonic, deobstruent.  
*Asparagus officinalis*—aperient, diuretic.  
*Apocynum*—cathartic, tonic, antibilious.  
*Aletris farinosa*—tonic, excellent in dyspepsia.  
*Arctium lappa*—anti scorbutic, good in scrofula.  
*Asclepias tuberosa*—expectorant, diaphoretic.  
*Acorus calamus*—aromatic, carminative.  
*Anthemis nobilis*—sudorific, excellent to stop chills.  
*Anthemis cotula*—sudorific. I have never used it.  
*Anethum foeniculum*—carminative, aromatic.  
*Allium sativum*—anthelmintic, tinctured in spirits.  
*Allium cepa*—stimulant, good for poultice, roasted.  
*Althæa rosea*—demulcent. The blossoms only are used.  
*Arum triphyllum*—expectorant, stimulant.  
*Apium petroselinum*—diuretic. The roots and tops are used.  
*Amygdalus persica*—cathartic, tonic, anthelmintic.  
*Aristolochia serpentaria*—sudorific, expectorant.  
*Artemisia absinthium*—tonic, stimulant.  
*Aralia spinosa*—diuretic, stimulant.  
*Avena sativa*—anti-inflammatory, used in fomentations.  
*Berberis vulgaris*—tonic, refrigerant, astringent, acid.  
*Baptisia tinctoria*—anti-septic, used externally.  
*Chelone glabra*—tonic, anti-bilious, excellent for dyspeptics.  
*Capsicum*—stimulant, rubefacient, conterirritant.  
*Cornus florida*—tonic, a substitute for cinchona.  
*Chimaphila maculata*—diuretic, good in rheumatism.



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- Chimaphila umbellata*—diuretic, better than *uva ursi*.  
*Convolvulus panduratus*—cathartic, diuretic. The root is used.  
*Cucumis melo*—diuretic. A tea is made of the seed.  
*Cucurbita citrullus*—diuretic. A tea is made of the seed.  
*Chionanthus virginicus*—stimulant. The bark of the root is used.  
*Chrysanthemum parthenium*—emmenagogue, nervine.  
*Cochlearia armoracia*—stimulant, discutient.  
*Cypripedium pubescens*—nervine, antispasmodic.  
*Cypripedium acaule*—nervine, good in dysentery.  
*Chenopodium anthelminticum*—anthelmintic.  
*Datura stramonium*—discutient. For external use.  
*Diospyrus virginiana*—astringent. The blossoms and bark are used.  
*Delphinium consolida*—antiverminous. Used in ointment.  
*Eupatorium perfoliatum*—sudorific, emetic, tonic.  
*Eupatorium purpureum*—diuretic. The root only is used.  
*Eupatorium teucrifolium*—sudorific, tonic. The leaves are used.  
*Graphalium polycephalum*—sudorific, aromatic.  
*Hedeoma pulegioides*—emmenagogue, sudorific.  
*Humulus lupulus*—tonic. A tea of this is good to break chills.  
*Juniperus virginiana*—anthelmintic, stimulant.  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*—tonic, anthelmintic. The root is used.  
*Laurus benzoin*—aromatic, sudorific, tonic.  
*Laurus sassafras*—alterative, tonic, demulcent.  
*Lactuca sativa*—anodyne. Used more for food than medicine.  
*Lobelia inflata*—emetic, anti-spasmodic, expectorant.  
*Lavandula spica*—stimulant, aromatic, nervine.  
*Myrica cerifera*—astringent, stimulant, emetic, tonic.  
*Mentha piperita*—sudorific, stomachic, aromatic.  
*Mentha viridis*—anti-emetic, diuretic, aromatic.  
*Marrubium vulgare*—pectoral, expectorant, good for the lungs.  
*Monarda punctata*—sudorific, tonic, aromatic.  
*Magnolia glauca*—tonic, laxative. I have never used it.  
*Melia azedarach*—anthelmintic. The bark of the root is used.  
*Morus nigra*—A syrup of the fruit is a specific for Aphthæ.  
*Nepeta cataria*—sudorific, carminative.  
*Nymphœa odorata*—emollient, good for poultices.  
*Nicotiana tabacum*—emetic, externally applied to the stomach.  
*Ocimum basilicum*—aromatic, anti-emetic.

- Oxalis acetosella*—discutient, used in extract for the cure of cancers.  
*Oxalis strieta*—discutient. A substitute for the last.  
*Pyrus malus*—tonic. Used with other tonics for bitters.  
*Populus tremuloides*—tonic. The bark of the top is used.  
*Populus balsamifera*—balsamic, stomachic, aromatic.  
*Potentilla canadensis*—astringent, emmenagogue.  
*Phytolacca decandra*—dissolvent. Used externally.  
*Podophyllum peltatum*—anti-bilious. The roots only are used.  
*Plantago major*—detergent. A cure for poisonous bites.  
*Quercus tinctoria*—astringent, tonic. The bark is used.  
*Quercus rubra*—astringent, tonic. The bark is used.  
*Quercus alba*—astringent, tonic. The bark and fruit are used.  
*Rubus strigosus*—astringent. It makes a good tea for children.  
*Rubus occidentalis*—astringent. A substitute for the last.  
*Rubus villosus*—astringent. The juice of the fruit is used.  
*Rubus trivialis*—astringent. A decoction of the root is used.  
*Rumex obtusifolius*—herpetic, deobstruent. The root is used.  
*Rumex crispus*—anti-scorbutic, herpetic, discutient.  
*Rumex acetosellus*—refrigerant acid, anti-scorbutic.  
*Rhus glabra*—astringent, detergent, refrigerant.  
*Rosa damascena*—astringent, tonic, aromatic. The petals are used.  
*Rosa gallica*—astringent, tonic, aromatic. The petals are used.  
*Ruta graveolens*—tonic, diuretic, emmenagogue.  
*Ricinus communis*—cathartic, emollient. The oil is used.  
*Sambucus canadensis*—diuretic. The bark and flowers are used.  
*Solidago odorata*—sudorific, aromatic, febrifuge.  
*Salvia officinalis*—sudorific, astringent. The leaves and blossoms are used.  
*Symphytum officinale*—demulcent, pectoral.  
*Sinapis nigra*—counter-irritant, emetic. The seed is used.  
*Trifolium pratense*—escharotic. The extract is good for cancers.  
*Tanacetum crispum*—emmenagogue, sudorific.  
*Thymus vulgaris*—aromatic, tonic. Not much used.  
*Ulmus fulva*—emollient.  
*Vaccinium*—diuretic. The berries and bark of the root are used.  
*Viscum verticillatum*—demulcent, astringent.  
*Verbascum thapsus*—anti-spasmodic, anodyne.

PROFESSOR NEWTON:—If you think the above would be interesting, or profitable to your readers, you can insert it in your Journal. I have given the names of about half, I suppose, of the medicinal vegetables growing here at about 37 degrees of north latitude, and the longitude of Washington. Are there not enough medicines growing here to cure all the curable “aches and ills,” to which the inhabitants of this climate are subject?

*Dinwiddie Co., Va.*

JESSE B. SPIERS.

## THE USE OF BOTANIC NAMES.

The question might be asked, why do we use such hard names for the designation of plants? I will answer, in the language of a certain writer, on the science of Botany. If, in all countries, the common names were alike, there would be no need of any other; but the names of plants vary in different languages, as much as other terms. Even in the same country, and often in the same neighborhood, the common names of plants are different; but Botanic names are the same, in all ages and countries. Without this uniformity, no permanent improvement could be made in the science.

Botanic names are chiefly taken from the Greek and Latin, these being the common languages of the learned world. All books on Botany were, for a long time, written in Latin;—the original works of Linnæus are written in that language. It would be useless to attempt to divest Botany of all its technical terms, and names borrowed from the dead languages. In so doing we should destroy the science, and introduce confusion in the place of order. But such facilities are now offered, that every young person can easily become acquainted with the grand outlines of the vegetable world;—and oh! how much are the beauties of nature enhanced, when viewed with the eye of a philosopher, and the emotions of a christian! We have to take things as we find them, and not as we would have them.

J. B. SPIERS.

*Dinwiddie co., Va.*



## Selections.

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### CALOMEL.

DR NEWTON:

DEAR SIR,—The following is an article from the NEW YORK SCALPEL, for the present month, edited by Dr. Dixon, who is one of the most eminent surgeons and physicians in the country, of twenty years experience in practice. It is headed,—

CALOMEL :—Its valuable properties to the Profession. By a Medical Heretic.

When a physician is ignorant of his patient's disease, it is very convenient to be able to prescribe medicine, which, whatever the cause may be, is sure to suit it. Suppose, for instance, that a person has an enlargement of the abdomen, and it cannot be ascertained whether it is caused by a collection of air, water, pus, or fat; give calomel. If there be air, calomel is *anti-tympanitic*. If there be water, calomel is *anti-hydropic*. If there be pus, it is *anti-purulent*; if there be fat, it is *anti-steatomous*. Do you not understand these terms? It is of no consequence. You would not be the wiser, if you did. They are *technical designations of occult qualities, appertaining to therapeutical agencies*. Perhaps, you do not comprehend this? If you did, you would be wiser than ourselves, and that is needless. We do not profess to *teach* this subject, but to *treat* it. We are medical, and *medical treatment*, of course, is obscure.

In a case of fever, lately attended by one of the "Academy," it was supposed to be "almost scarlet fever." As calomel was *white*, and the fever *red*, it was good medical logic, to give calomel, and cool it down. The philosophic practitioner appeared to think that he had cooled the patient down too low, on the third day, and therefore prescribed some whiskey-punch, by way of heating the fever up again, a little. The patient recovered from fever, calomel, and whiskey at last,—thanks to an uncommonly good constitution.

It is a very common mode of accounting for every disorder of the stomach and bowels, which the doctor can neither explain, nor understand, to pronounce it to be *bilious*. Now, this *biliousness* is as incomprehensible and inexplicable, as the unknown disorder; but then it is a *name* to prescribe *at*. It is as certain that calomel is



the remedy for biliousness, as that biliousness is the disorder. The medical logic runs thus. If it is not biliousness, what is it? If calomel will not cure it, what will? Therefore, give calomel.

In tic douloureux, a disease which is as painful, as it is obscure to a mere medicine man, calomel is most successfully employed, on the strength of another medical syllogism. We do not know the cause of tic douloureux, nor do we know the mode in which calomel acts; therefore, calomel is the remedy.

In cholera, of which the doctors seem increasingly to know less, they have found that the best medicine is calomel, and that the best mode of administering it, is increasingly to give more. When they knew a little about cholera, they gave a few grains now and then. Now that they know much less, they give tea-spoonfuls; and, by the time that the disease comes again, we may expect, that, as, according to the law of progress, the "Academy" will then know absolutely nothing, they will increase their remedy in proportion to their ignorance, and give table-spoonfuls. Decidedly, calomel is the remedy!

In diarrhœa and dysentery, where the bowels are scoured until they are unable to contain their secretions, their constituent fluids, or even the blood itself, calomel is given because it is *ordered* to be given by the medical authorities. Do you ask why? Because of that self-sufficient spirit, which indulges in the unhallowed license of reasoning. For once, however, we stoop to answer the impertinence of a question, and we hope to answer it finally. Calomel is given, because—and we wish to *emphasize* our *because* with the importance due to its merits—because, *they do not know what else to give!*

In diabetes, where a great quantity of water passes away, and in dropsy, where scarcely any passes, calomel is equally useful. In diabetes, some organic change has taken place in the stomach, bowels, and kidneys, whereby the food which is taken is converted into a low sort of sugar and water, and is passed off rapidly, leaving the body to emaciate and waste. Now, calomel is known to act upon the organization and produce a change in its composition. Witness the change of *bone* into *cartilage*, and even *pus*. If it change the composition of the stomach and kidneys, the diabetic symptoms cease. True, the stomach may be ulcerated, or the kidneys be absorbed; but what of that, the diabetes has been stopped. If the calomel do nothing, it is of no use. If it do more than is needed, it is only a proof of its great power.

In dropsy, the blood appears to be too fluid, lacking the elements necessary to solidity. Now, the experiments of Magendie conclusively prove, that calomel can act upon the blood, as well as on the solids. Moreover, that scientific disease, *salivation*, produced by

the administration of mercury, sufficiently attests, that we have the power to inspissate the fluids of the body. The saliva, which, in the natural condition, is almost as thin as water, under the influence of mercury, becomes as thick as jelly. Why may not calomel thicken the whole of the fluids of the body? 'Try! You can but *kill* your patient, and he may *die*! How much better for a man to make his exit by science, than by disease. Give calomel!

In dyspepsia, or indigestion, when nothing goes right, and nobody knows why, it is a perfectly philosophical deduction that something is wrong. It may be the blood, it may be the solids, it may be the stomach, it may be the liver, it may be the spleen, it may be the brain. The whole case appears to be a doubtful one—"a may be." Does it not strike every medical logician, that the *treatment* of a disease should be in accordance with its *condition*? What better mode of treatment could be pursued than the "may be" one? Give calomel! "May be" it will do good. If you do not give it, "may be" some one else will. "May be" the patient will get better, notwithstanding the calomel, and you, "may be," will get the credit. The worst which "may be" is, that the calomel "may be" fatal to him! but, if it be, you have only carried out the theory of a medical "may be," to its *therapeutical conclusion*.

In all cases of inflammation of the vital organs, as the heart, the lungs, the brain, &c., calomel is of manifest importance. Inflammation is generally supposed to consist in a greater amount of vitality, or life, than is good. On this account, some physicians bleed, in order to reduce the inflammation, and others give calomel. Nothing can be more philosophic than this treatment, provided the theory of inflammation be true. Bleeding reduces and destroys life; and so does calomel. Bleeding does it mechanically; calomel, chemically. Bleeding is surgical; calomel is medicinal. Calomel is the weapon in the hands of a scientific physician. The proofs of its power to kill, and therefore of its anti-phlogistic properties, are innumerable and undoubted. Thousands die yearly in attestation of its powers! Can such a medicine kill a whole man, and not be relied on to kill inflammation in his lungs? Bah! Only give enough, and you will subdue any thing or body.

But it is time, that we treat of the more recondite qualities of calomel. No one, except a thoroughly initiated medicine man, can estimate the value of that property of calomel which gives it such efficiency as an "*alterative*." A patient is affected with something which the doctor can neither comprehend nor cure; but, by the aid of calomel, he can bring on some other complaint, which will subside after a time, when he ceases to give the remedy. Here is comprehension and cure together. In the mean time, the real disorder is obscured and overlooked, or has time to get well, or is changed



to something else, and there is the opportunity to make out a case, and—a bill.

One of the "*physicians of the reformed practice*," being called to a case of fever, gave a lobelia emetic, which operated violently, and threw the patient into a fit. The friends being alarmed sent for the *reformer*, and asked him if he thought there was any danger. He replied, that there was not the slightest. He had purposely thrown him into a fit; for, although he knew nothing about fever, he was thunder on fits. Now *calomel* is to the "Academy" what *lobelia* is to the Reformers. If they know nothing about fever, they can "*give you fits*" with calomel.

It is this "alterative" property of calomel, which makes it so valuable in "liver complaints." If a person have a pain in the right side and shoulder, and be "bilious," (we see you jump up to ask what we mean by "bilious," and we reply promptly, "we don't mean anything!") of course, such a person has his liver out of order. Of course, it is requisite to put him under an "alterative" course of calomel to rectify the disorder of his liver. What the disorder of the liver consists in, is no business of yours, any more than what the "alterative" quality of calomel implies. Medical logic has decided, that "calomel is alterative" and "alteratives" are required in liver disease;—therefore, give calomel.

Some of the alterative effects of calomel are very apparent. We have known stout, hearty persons, altered to lean, feeble ones. Some, whose stomachs were capable of taking and digesting anything, were rendered incapable of taking and digesting at all; others, who were always regular in their bowels, were so altered, that they found the necessity to regulate them, the future business of their life. Some have a moderate sized liver, altered to a large one; others are so altered as to lose a large portion of their liver, already diminished. Some find out that they have kidneys, who never knew it before; and many can define the exact boundary of their stomachs, by the uneasiness which they feel, who formerly did not know that they had a stomach.

The alterative effects, however, are most sensibly experienced by night. Many who could formerly sleep the clock round, experience such an alteration, as not to be able to sleep at all. Those who formerly were incapable of comprehending what rheumatism is, are now capable of defining it. Their bones and ligaments, which formerly had no sensibility, now become so intensely sensitive, that they are obliged to preserve them from the softest touch of the air, and a bed of down is as rough as thorns to them. They once knew not what a cold sweat meant. They now never have a warm one. The alterative properties of calomel are undoubtedly great,

There is, however, one valuable property in calomel above all other medicine. It is this. If there is nothing the matter with the person who takes it, there very soon will be ; and, although before its administration, it might be impossible to know or say what was the matter—if anything,—it will be very easy to do both, after it has been given. Decayed teeth—bad breath—foul stomach—irregular bowels—pains in the bones—weakness and weariness—are a small portion of a large catalogue of ailments, which are most distinctly traceable to calomel. Dyspepsia, dropsy, and piles or fistula, may be very easily procured, by any one who will undergo a course of calomel.

If a medical man cannot find enough of disease to employ him, let him give calomel to that which he does find, and he will most assuredly find more. It may be proper, in some cases, to give sarsaparilla as well ; but that depends upon whether the doctor sells it. If he does, let him give it by all means.”

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## Editorial.

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### TONSILLITIS.

This disease consists in inflammation of the *tonsils* or *amygdalæ*, two glandular organs, shaped like almonds, and situated between the anterior and posterior pillar of the soft palate, on each side of the fauces. Cullen termed it *cynanche tonsillaris*. It is sometimes called *amygdalitis* ; but the common nervacular name is *quinsy*. The French call it *esquinancie* ; and, from this term, are derived the English words *squinancy*, *squinsy*, and finally *quinsy*.

The tonsils consist of cellular or areolar texture, and are composed of an assemblage of mucous follicles, which open upon the surface of the glands. They are invested externally, by the pharyngeal fascia, which separates them from the superior constrictor muscle and internal carotid artery, and, in case of the formation of



an abscess, prevents it from opening in that direction. In relation to surrounding parts, the tonsils correspond with the angle of the lower jaw.

The degree of severity, under which tonsillitis shews itself, depends on the extent and the depth of the inflammation. When, indeed, the larynx, the pharynx, the parotid glands, or other important neighboring organs, are the chief seat of inflammation, the affection receives a name descriptive of its locality. But, when the tonsils are the principal part inflamed, other parts in immediate proximity are not unfrequently involved. Among these are the uvula, the velum palati, the root of the tongue, and the neighboring muscular and cellular tissues. When any important amount of inflammation extends to these parts, the disease is of a graver character, than when it is limited strictly to the tonsils alone. Again, when the inflammation penetrates through and beyond the mucous membrane, it is more severe than when it is superficial merely. In this case, the tonsils sometimes swell to an enormous size, and greatly annoy the patient. Abscesses form, and suppuration ensues.

The symptoms of tonsillitis, ordinarily, are something like the following. There are first, some degree of uneasiness and difficulty in swallowing, a dryness and sense of constriction in the fauces, and a feeling, as if some foreign substance was adhering to them. On inspection, an inflammatory redness and a swelling of one or both of the tonsils appear. Sometimes, the uvula is manifestly enlarged, and elongated, and assumes a scarlet redness. Sometimes, it drags upon the back part of the tongue, or hangs into the pharynx, causing a sensation like that produced by a foreign body. Occasionally, it adheres to the tonsil which is the most swollen. Soon the dryness of the fauces is succeeded by a copious secretion of transparent, frothy, and viscid mucus, which is with difficulty detached from the inflamed surface. Sometimes opaque whitish spots appear on the red tonsil, at an early period of the disease. There are exudations from the surface, on the discharged contents of irritated mucous follicles, and not ulcerating points or specks of pus.

Sometimes when tonsillitis is violent, the inflammation involves also the parotid and submaxillary glands, and then occasionally, not always, a troublesome pyalism takes place; and the patient,

from the difficulty of swallowing, allows the saliva to dribble from his mouth.

In ordinary cases of tonsillitis, the pain is felt mainly during the act of deglutition;—the narrowness of the passage interrupting a mechanical obstacle to the act, and thereby rendering it painful. When both tonsils are considerably swollen at the same time, they push forwards the anterior pillars of the velum palati, and project into the neck of the fauces, so as nearly or quite to close the space between them. In this case, if attempts are made to swallow *liquids*, they are apt to return through the posterior nares, as the closure of these is prevented by the tumid and fixed condition of the velum palati. As to *solids*, the swallowing of them is often impracticable, and its attempt exceedingly painful. Sometimes, when suppuration ensues, it causes a pain to shoot from the throat to the ear, along the course of the eustachian tube. Occasionally, an obstruction to the passage of air, through the eustachian tube, produces tinnitus aurium and partial deafness. Occasionally, too, the severity of the inflammation prevents the separation of the jaws, and forbids the patient to open his mouth sufficiently to bring the fauces into view. Generally, there is no difficulty in breathing; but the blocking up of the throat, and the fixed condition of the velum palati, sometimes render the speech thick, guttural, and inarticulate.

Very commonly, in this disease, there is, from the outset, considerable inflammatory fever. The pulse becomes rapid, perhaps rising to 120 beats in the minute, and the head becomes painful. There is not, however, in general, that debility which attends fever of the typhoid type.

When, in tonsillitis, the inflammation has not been intense, it generally terminates in resolution. The indications, that it is about to terminate, are such as the following. The mucous secretion increases in quantity, and becomes less viscid, the difficulty of swallowing diminishes, and the constitutional symptoms decline.

Violent or long-continued cases, however, generally issue in the formation of pus. This may be looked for, when the swelling is so great as to impede the breathing, when a pulsating pain is felt shooting to the ear, when the patient can scarcely open his mouth or move his tongue, when the *external* swelling is great, and when



the symptoms continue to increase or even fail to remit, after the lapse of five or six days. Sometimes, suppuration is announced by accompanying rigors; and, when pus is formed, it may be superficial, so as to appear through the membrane covering the tonsils, or it may be deep-seated, so as not to be detected, even by the most careful examination. Sooner or later, however, according to the depth at which the pus first takes place, the abscess bursts, and then the patient is immediately relieved. The pain ceases, deglutition becomes easy, and he feels comparatively well.

The nauseous taste, and fœtid smell, may produce a degree of emesis, by which the pus shall be ejected by the mouth. Or it may, especially if it be small in quantity, escape the notice of the patient, and pass into the stomach. Occasionally, but not very often, suppuration occurs externally in the cellular tissue of the neck, as well as internally.

The exciting cause of tonsillitis is generally exposure to cold. It sometimes seems to prevail epidemically, owing, no doubt, to some peculiar condition of the atmosphere. It is not contagious. When it affects, at the same time, several members of one family, the synchronism is evidently to be ascribed to the same unwholesome influences from without, operating on persons of similar constitutions, and similarly situated.

The prognosis in tonsillitis is almost always favorable. The inflammation, extending simultaneously to other organs, may constitute, as a whole, a complicated and more formidable disease; but tonsillitis alone is not dangerous.

Not unfrequently, in this disease, the inflammation takes on the sub-acute or chronic form, and the patient is troubled, much of his time, with swollen tonsils. Indeed, they sometimes seem to be permanently enlarged and hardened. In this case, some or all of the following consequences generally occur;—habitual trouble in swallowing, confusion and inarticulation of speech, partial deafness from occlusion of the eustachian tubes, an impediment to breathing, and even a spasm of the glottis, with threatening suffocation.

TREATMENT.—In the milder form of this disease, when the inflammation and fever are slight, not very active treatment is necessary. An anti-phlogistic regimen and a cooling purgative are proper; after which, an occasional dose of some diaphoretic article, as



vegetable composition, *asclepias tuberosa*, or the like, is desirable.

If the case is more severe, an active emetic of *lobelia inflata* should be early administered ; and some stimulating and tonic embrocation should be applied externally to the throat, beneath the ramus of the lower jaw. For this purpose, a tincture of *lobelia*, *capsicum*, *hydrastis*, *myrica*, *populus*, and the like, are valuable. Simple tincture of *myrrh*, also, with a little *capsicum*, does very well. If, to these tinctures, are added olive and *sassafras* oils in equal parts, with a little camphor, the embrocation will be improved. A fomentation, also, of bitter herbs, as *artemisia* *absinthium*, *tanacetum vulgare*, and the like, is of service. Astringent and acid gargles generally do little or no good ; and sometimes they are evidently injurious. A far better gargle, and one which, at the commencement of the disease particularly, may be positively serviceable, is warm milk and water. Inhaling the vapor of hot water, by means of a suitable inhaling tube, is favorable ; but far more benefit may be derived from a local or general vapor bath. This may be applied from fifteen to twenty minutes at a time, daily, or even oftener.

In the most severe cases, *detergent* gargles, by assisting the excretion of the mucus which collects in the fauces and by correcting the fœtor, may do some good. For this purpose, a weak solution of chlorine in water will answer sufficiently well. To remove the tonsils by ligatures is a painful and unnecessary operation. To extirpate them by the knife is not without danger, and, in the acute form of the disease, certainly, is entirely unnecessary. It should not be done.

In the chronic form of the disease, when the inflammation is not active, but the tonsils are permanently enlarged and hardened, the means above recommended, will sometimes fail of much effect. In the case of such failure, the daily application of a little caustic potash or nitrate of silver, will assist to disperse the swelling. If ever there is a sufficient apology for removing the glands by incision, it is only in this last case. By the more judicious of those who adopt this practice, a comparatively slight scarification has been found sufficient to arrest the difficulty, and excite to its removal by the process of absorption. If this operation is ever done, it should be with the utmost caution. The danger is in wounding a branch of the internal carotid artery, which lies in immediate prox-

imity to the gland. By a wound of this kind, persons have died in three minutes. Minor hæmorrhages, however, have been arrested by the free application of a pencil of nitrate of silver, within the bleeding orifice. Lint, wet with a saturated solution of alum, or with a strong decoction or tincture of geranium maculatum, or nut-galls, is a good application to astringe the bleeding vessels, in this, as in other hæmorrhages.

Dr. Watson, an English Allopathic writer, says, "Mr. Joseph Bell of Barrhead, has strongly recommended the internal administration of powdered guaiacum, in large doses, as being almost specific in the case of cynanche tonsillaris. He gives as much as half a drachm, suspended, by means of mucilage, in a draught, every six hours. It has been found successful in other hands also." Very probably it deserves a trial.

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## PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

To learn our ignorance, it has sometimes been said, is the first step towards knowledge. And it is not a little interesting to witness the difference in the matter of practical common sense, which attends the minds of different individuals, in the profession.

One man has obtained a smattering of acquaintance with Thomsonism, or he has picked up a few medical recipes from some old Indian or root doctor; and he now, in his own judgment, knows quite enough to render him a competent physician. Of *book knowledge*, he ridicules the idea. Any thing like a regular professional training, he despises. Of course, he patronizes no medical publication; or, if he does, it must be one not pretending to give important information, but being filled simply with slang and vulgar ridicule. Influenced by motives such as governed the fox that had been deprived of his caudal appendage, he is ignorant himself, and therefore wishes others also to be. Especially, is he afraid, that if education is encouraged, his own heels will be trod on, by the younger portion of the profession, whose progress, in practical tact

and consequent popularity, will thereby be increased. We are acquainted with an individual of this stamp, who lives not a thousand miles from this city. As a specimen of his professional science, of which we might give numerous interesting examples, he lately undertook to illustrate, to a patient of his, in the presence of a friend of ours, the importance of using stimulating medicines in a state of the system reduced by chronic disease. In his very expressive and truly elegant dialect, he said, he deemed it necessary to give warming medicine, "to make the internal heat swell up, and drive the cold out of the system." In plain language, such unintelligent bipeds are a curse to the profession, and a disgrace to humanity. We believe it morally wrong to countenance them in the practice of medicine.

How very different from all this, are the views and habits of another, who is constrained, by the force of circumstances, to enter the profession, without the enjoyment of any extended advantages for gaining a medical education. He feels his deficiencies. He finds, indeed, that with what little he does know, he can do some good ; but, to do more, and especially to avoid the liability of doing mischief, he eagerly seizes on every means of information within his reach. As far as his pecuniary circumstances will allow, he gathers together a library of medical books. He reads ; he seeks instruction from his more experienced and better informed brethren ; he patronizes medical periodicals ; and, in short, he does all in his power to compensate for his deficiencies. "Leaving those things which are behind, he reaches forth to those things which are before."

Nor does he confine his desire for professional improvement to himself. He is anxious to have others secure advantages which he himself cannot obtain. Hence he rejoices in the establishment of medical Colleges, intended to inculcate the true principles of medical science, and in the diffusion of those principles, through the community, by every laudable means.

Now, for one of this latter class, we have the most cordial regard. We bid him God-speed ; and we will make every effort, to uphold him.

An instance of this latter trait of professional character, we have in our correspondent, Dr. Sly. His letter, we suppose, was not in-



tended for publication, but was merely a friendly message accompanying the *needful*,—which, by the way, he has not waited to the *end* of the year before sending, as too many subscribers are wont to do, but has promptly forwarded even in advance of *the beginning* of the year. From his own account, he seems to have been rather *sly* in getting into the profession, and *sly* to do all he can, towards rescuing his fellow men from the hands of murderous Allopathy; and we think, that, if he would just be *sly* to slip into the Post Office, once in a while, a communication, describing his mode of treating some of the graver cases of disease, particularly what he has learned from his Indian instructor, he would do the cause of humanity and science a valuable service. We would, also, earnestly recommend to him, to be *sly* to get a good number of copies of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal introduced among the people of his vicinity.

The success of our cause, depends on the intelligence of the community. Just in proportion as the people are interested to inform themselves, will they give countenance to a mode of medical practice which has its foundation laid in reason, science, and common sense, and which will prevail, more and more, with every triumph of truth and candor over error and prejudice.

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## THE PROGRESS OF MEDICAL REFORM.

We are pleased to hear, from one of the Professors of Central Medical College, that their number of students has considerably increased, since the opening of the session. It is thought that, when full, the number will be nearly one hundred. This is a good beginning. Our friends in New York seem disposed to do things up right. We, therefore, say to them, Go on, and prosper.

It is interesting to see, that the cause of reform in medicine is, in different sections, going forward with rapid strides. In New England, the efforts which have been put forth, for the last few years, have been attended with most gratifying success. The

wave, which has thus been started, as it were, by a little ruffling of the waters, has been steadily widening its circle. The influence has been, and still is being, felt abroad ; while, at home, new degrees of interest are, almost daily, being awakened. The prospects of the Worcester Medical Institution are extremely flattering. We are continually hearing of students who are arranging to be with us in the spring.

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### “HOW MUCH OWEST THOU ?”

We have occasionally alluded to the importance of that trite maxim, “Union is strength.” And now, we are disposed to ask each of our subscribers, and especially every physician, “How much owest thou” to that system of measures which is designed to promote union among reformers in medicine ?

Several things, it is universally conceded, require the attention of somebody. Who is there that will wish to say, “I pray thee, have me excused ?” Some, we know, have more means and opportunities than others ; but who will not covet the plaudit, “He hath done what he could.”

In the present case, we wish friends, not only to be united, but, to be united for the truth, and to be understandingly united for the truth. In order to this, light must be scattered, the Journal must be sustained, and people, if possible, must be induced to read it. Several friends have already stepped forward and proposed to take, some two, and others five, copies of the Journal, thereby aiding its pecuniary interests. We wish to say to many more, “Go and do thou likewise.” Some there may be, who do not feel able, personally, to be at the expense of more than one copy. Well, by a little effort, you can probably induce several of your neighbors to take the paper, and pay for it. This will be better, even, than to pay for it yourselves ; as they will be likely to read it with more interest, if it costs them something.

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Just bear in mind, that, there are two objects to be answered. One is, to have the paper extensively read ; the other, to have the publisher sustained. Probably, almost every subscriber can find some one, or more, in the circle of his acquaintances, to whom he can speak or write, and whom he may induce to take the paper. The day of small things is not to be despised, nor even the efforts of humble individuals.

Physicians, in particular, owe an additional duty. They are bound, as they value the cause of true science in medicine, to report cases, and forward communications, of various kinds, such as will interest and instruct, both their professional brethren, and non-professional readers. Now, at the commencement of a new volume, it is a good time to begin a long-neglected duty. Let us see who will *say us nay*, and who will come up to the work, like men ?

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### TERMS OF THE JOURNAL.

We again remind our subscribers, that the terms of the Journal are one dollar a year, in advance. Where payment is delayed three months, one dollar and twenty-five cents will be charged ; and to those delaying six months, one dollar and fifty cents.

Our subscribers have already been apprised, that we have incurred considerable additional expense, in order to render the present volume, in every respect, acceptable to its readers. This expense we are obliged to meet promptly, whether we ourselves are indemnified or not. The publishing costs us more than forty dollars, each month, *in cash*, aside from our own time and labor, as editor. We think it no more than just, that those who choose or consent to take the Journal, should pay for it in advance, so as to enable us, without embarrassment, to meet the expenses of publishing it.

One dollar is but a small sum for any one to meet ; and, with few exceptions, it is essentially as easy for our subscribers, to forward this sum at the commencement of the volume, as at any other



time. We hope that those who take the Journal, will remember, that, as we labor for nothing, and even pay something for doing so, we shall expect them to comply strictly with our terms.

Any persons receiving the present number, and not wishing to become or remain subscribers for the current volume, will please return the number to us immediately, taking care to let us know by whom it is returned. Our apology for this last remark is, that, heretofore, we have sometimes received returned numbers, without any Post-mark, or the name of the person by whom, or place from which they have been sent back. To some extent we are a believer in mesmerism ; but, really, we keep no clairvoyant at hand, to trace out the course which any particular number, returning to us, has travelled.

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### PHYSICIANS OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

We are anxious to learn the number and the names of the several Botanic and Eclectic Physicians, in the country,—particularly in New England,—together with their several residences, and all other particulars of interest. We, therefore, take the liberty to ask our subscribers, generally, to give us such information as it may be convenient for each one to give, when he forwards his dollar for the Journal ; and this we hope will be done without delay.

Sufficient pains are not taken, on the part of reformers in medicine, to acquaint themselves with one another, and with the general interests of a common cause. Without a more extensive and harmonious acquaintance, it is utterly impossible for us to exert that amount of influence which is desirable, for the sake, both of the community, and of the profession. The current of popular favor, is now rapidly setting towards us, and it is our imperious duty to control that current to the best practical effect.

## NOTICES.

### Receipts for the Journal, Vol. 3d.

<i>From</i>		<i>Paid to</i>		<i>From</i>		<i>Paid to</i>	
Carlos Chapman,	Dec.	16th,	1849.	Sanford J. Hall,	Dec.	16th,	1850.
Silas S. Davis,	"	"	"	Robert Vaughan,	"	"	"
J. W. Chapman,	"	"	"	A. L. Maxfield;	"	"	"
E. G. Morris,	"	"	"	Micajah Harriss,	"	"	"
Silas Alden,	"	"	"	G. W. King,	"	"	"
P. Stotesbury,	"	"	"	W. E. Underwood,	"	"	"
John L. Martin,	"	"	"	A. C. Logan,	"	"	"
Horace Jacobs,	"	"	"	P. S. Leaming,	"	"	"
Elbridge Whiting,	"	"	"	Aaron B. Kidder,	"	"	"
J. Crutcher,	"	"	"	A. H. Heywood,	"	"	"
Eber Bartholomew,	"	"	"	George P. Field,	"	"	1849.
Samuel A. Todd,	"	"	1850.	Hoyt Hunsiker,	"	"	"
L. N. Rugg,	"	"	"	Ebenezer Childs,	"	"	"

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At his residence, he treats Cancerous and other Tumors successfully, and mainly without the use of the knife.

In an extensive *Obstetrical* Practice, he has never lost *the mother*. In one instance only, and that a case of actual *malformation*, has he lost *the child*. This almost unparalleled success is due to his use of agents adapted to assist, and not to thwart, the efforts of nature. Facts are stubborn things; and they prove, to candid minds, the superiority of true science, over poisoning, depleting, and murderous quackery,—ignorance, prejudice, and falsehood, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

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These remedies consist of the Dynamic, or Gold Pills, and Compound Bituminous Plaster. They act on the magnetic organization of the system.

They are the appropriate remedies in Tubercular Consumption, in the first and second stage, and, in many cases, in the last;—in Chronic Diseases, or Serosis of the Liver;—Chronic Rheumatism;—St. Vitus Dance, which is occasioned by tubercular disease of the medulla oblongata;—Dyspepsia, &c.; and all diseases known as *Tubercula* or *Scrofula*.

The cures are often much facilitated by the use of Morse's *Magnetic Machines*. These Machines are made in superior style, and run in the best manner. Every person should possess one, as it affords an easy, economical, and effectual mode of relief from a great variety of acute and chronic diseases.

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Jan. 1, 1850.

### A good chance for a Botanic Physician.

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Sept. 11, 1849.

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
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**Medical Notice.**

**I. M. COMINGS, M. D.,**

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He has cured cases of White Swelling that have defied the treatment of the best Old School physicians, and where amputation has been pronounced absolutely necessary.

Those from a distance, who may desire to consult him, can do so by letter; stating minutely the symptoms and history of the case. To such, he can send medicines, by Express or Mail, with the necessary directions. The patient can thus, at a trifling expense, have the opportunity to test his skill without a personal visit.

Two or three young men who wish to pursue the study of medicine can be entered as students with him.

*Worcester, May, 1849.*



## Bush's Extract of Smilax, OR SPANISH SARSAPARILLA.

*Whence are the occasional failures of Sarsaparilla?* The present popularity of this invaluable medicine makes the above a frequent question; and it may not be improper to state, in this card, the most common causes of disappointment in the use of the medicine. *First*, there are only a few species of Sarsaparilla that contain the *peculiar* virtues, and it is well known, that many varieties are found in market, and are used by manufacturers. *Secondly*, the virtues of Sarsaparilla are exceedingly volatile, and are soon impaired by age; while but very little discrimination is generally made in its selection. *Thirdly*, the virtues are extremely liable to be impaired and even entirely lost by the preparation of the syrup or extract.

The proprietors of this preparation are happy now to offer, to the afflicted public, an article in which all the causes of failure have been studiously avoided; and they cannot fail to maintain the credit of this incomparably valuable medicine. The recent discovery of the true Smilax Sarsaparilla in the south, by Prof. I. M. Comings, has put us in possession of the genuine root in a fresh state; and a new method of preparation, discovered by the proprietors, enables them to offer to the purchaser a superior article of extract of Sarsaparilla. The attention of Dispensers, Druggists, Physicians, and Patients, is particularly invited to the trial of an article which is warranted genuine and superior to any other article now offered to the public.

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In offering this medicine to the public, we introduce the most mild, easy, and certain cathartic ever known; not the least griping or drastic effects attending their operation. We do not pretend to cure every form of disease with these pills, neither do we expect to raise the dead, or kill the living; but we do know that these pills will cure diseases of the liver, in any form; such as acute or chronic inflammation, jaundice in its worst stages, dyspepsia, constipated bowels, headache, heartburn, flatulency, and in fevers they are the only medicine needed. They will break the most malignant type, if taken in its first stage, according to the directions accompanying each box: they will also remove all female obstructions immediately; and in rheumatism and gout they are an infallible remedy if persevered in. In all affections of the kidneys and urinary organs, we can recommend them as a perfectly safe and efficacious remedy—gravel, chronic inflammation of the kidneys, or bladder stricture can be cured in a short time with these pills. As a general cathartic, they are the best ever offered to the public, because they strengthen the bowels and leave the system in a healthy state, operating without the least griping or pain.

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The Proprietor has, for above twenty years, devoted his unremitted personal attention to this business, and customers ordering Herbs, Extracts or Medicines, may rely that he will never suffer the reputation of this Establishment to be compromised, by impure, damaged, spurious or adulterated articles being put up in it, or sent therefrom; and those who *know* him will feel a perfect assurance, that he needs no instruction in pulverizing his articles without injuring their medical qualities.

Every variety of Herbs, Roots, Barks, Extracts, Ointments, and Compounds, recommended by the various Botanical authors of our Country, constantly kept on hand, in large quantities, ready for shipment at the shortest notice.

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An experience of more than twenty years, in the practice, preparation, and compounding of Botanic Medicines, from the very best and purest materials in the market, has afforded him just grounds to flatter himself, that his Medicines, after a fair trial, will compete with any which may be offered to the friends of the Botanic cause, within the whole range of our country.

It is of great importance, that Practitioners, and others, using Botanic Medicines, should be apprised, that all the articles manufactured at his establishment are *pulverized*,—*not ground*,—between an upper and nether mill-stone; as the latter process heats, and consequently injures, if it does not destroy the medical virtues of all articles submitted to such an operation.

On hand all the various Medical Works on the Botanic System, together with a general assortment of Glass Ware, Syringes, and all the articles connected with the business. Those wishing pure Medicines can be supplied on the most reasonable terms by

EPH'M. LARRABEE.

May, 1847.

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SECOND EDITION, REVISED, WITH IMPORTANT ADDITIONS.

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V. Description of Diseases, Treatment, &c.

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It is generally conceded, that there is no better Botanic Work than this for families. Every Botanic Physician also should have a copy of it in his library. It has received great favor in England, and is publicly announced there, by some of the educated and prominent Physicians, as their Guide of Practice.

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NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV

WORCESTER, MASS., FEBRUARY 1, 1850.

NO. 2.

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Communications.

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AN ADDRESS,  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
BAY STATE MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION,  
at its annual meeting in Lowell, Jan. 3, 1850 ;

BY C. NEWTON, M. D.,  
PRESIDENT OF THE WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The term science is derived from a Latin word, signifying to know. As applied, in good English, it signifies the embodied principles of a subject ; in other words, the theory which explains the various phenomena concerned, and gives rise to practical rules and modes of action. Thus the science of Astronomy reduces the irregular appearances and erratic movements of the heavenly bodies all



to a fixed system, and shows, that unchanging laws are constantly exerting their control.

An art, on the contrary, is the practical application of principles founded in some science or sciences. For instance, the science of Astronomy, or the sciences of Astronomy and Geography combined, explain certain established principles, on which the mariner founds practical rules for determining his latitude and longitude, and by which certain questions of prudence are decided, and various matters which respect the art of navigation.

Many subjects may be considered in the light both of a science and of an art. Thus, music, as a science, gives the theory of harmonic sounds, the relation of one note and one part to another, and the like. Music, as an art, on the other hand, makes the actual singer. A man may well understand the principles of music, who yet, for the want of a tact in the practical application of those principles, may be but a very imperfect musician.

Similar remarks are applicable to the matter of medicine. The theory of disease and of the mode in which remedies act, in effecting a cure, may be familiarly known to an individual; and yet, if he is called on to make an application of his scientific knowledge, he fails in doing it;—as a practising physician, he does not succeed at all. He understands, for illustration, the gastric action of emesis, as consisting in an inverted peristaltic motion, and he can explain the relation of the different muscles of the stomach to that action, and of the nervous tissue to those muscles; he knows, too, the effect of ipecac, and lobelia, and bloodroot,—can explain just how they operate, and in what condition the system will be left after their operation; and yet, it may be, that any decent nurse, or woman of common intelligence, will administer the medicine better than he. He may know that a sinapism, in an individual's case, applied to the side or the feet, is indicated; and yet he may understand, neither how to prepare a mustard paste, nor how to confine it, when prepared, to the part where it is wanted.

Such is briefly the difference between medicine as a science, and medicine as an art. But here let it be observed, that, though the science in this, as in every other case, lays the foundation for the art, and the art cannot be perfected by one unacquainted with the science; yet, to a considerable extent, the one may be practised

while there is only a sufficient acquaintance with the other, to lead to the adoption of some general rules. These rules may not have been the conclusion of any inductive reasoning, but merely the result of a limited experience, and of accident.

To borrow an illustration from figures,—a child may have accidentally discovered, that to multiply one number by a second, and then divide the product by a third, will give the same result, as to divide the second by the third, and then to multiply the quotient by the first. He may not be able to see the reason of this ; but, having tried the rule in the use of several examples, and having found its application uniform, he receives it as a safe guide. In this instance, it proves so, because it is really founded in a true and unalterable scientific principle, though the child himself is incapable of an explanation.

But take another illustration, drawn, not from mathematics, but from matters in which incidents and events are concerned. Here it is more difficult, and sometimes impossible, to decide when we have all the data for forming a correct opinion. A person applies water to a flame, and it extinguishes it. He sees the effect of this liquid, and he tries another and then another, as beer, apple juice, berry juice, and the like ; and uniformly the same result follows. He infers, that it is the property of all liquids to extinguish fire ; and so, on another occasion, he applies alcohol, confidently expecting the same result ; but now he is wofully disappointed,—the liquid only adds immensely to the flame. He finds, at length, that his inductive reasoning fails him,—there has been some error in the data.

So it is in medicine, understood as an art, and not as a science. The rules which the physician follows may apply to numerous cases, but not universally. They are formed from a limited induction, and not from a perfect acquaintance with principles. Hence the unscientific practitioner, though often successful, yet sometimes fails, and he knows not why ; whereas, the man of true science in medicine can foretell the result, in the case of the exception to the rule, as well as in the rule itself. He not only understands the *modus operandi* of his remedial agents, but can tell also the *ratio operandi*,—he can show the reason of the difference. The man of rule directs an expectorant, for a patient having a cough ; and



he finds the prescription acts favorably, whether the case be bronchitis, pneumonia, pleuritis, or even phthisis. He adopts for himself the rule to give expectorants for a cough, whatever the case may happen to be. But a case of nervous irritation, or of inflammation of the liver, or stomach, or diaphragm occurs, and he applies his expectorant without effect. He cannot tell why, but the scientific physician can. The latter, understanding the different pathological conditions, can account for the difference in the results, and he is not disappointed.

Sometime since, I was called to see the patient of a quack, whom he had treated a few weeks for pleuritis. Now his rule, for this disease, was to give emetics, capsicum, and expectorants; and this he followed undeviatingly, until, the patient said to me, "My stomach is all raw, and I can take no more of such medicine." I found her with a large collection of water in the left pleural sack,—probably two quarts or more. To say nothing of the injudiciousness of a treatment, under which the patient was left to experience this condition of things, he was now doing nothing with the design of absorbing the fluid; for he had no knowledge or belief of its existence. His rule failed him.

I do not propose, at this time, to go into a history of medicine, and especially its history as an art, or matter of practice. This I have done succinctly, indeed, but to the best of my ability, in a late Address before the Medical Institution at Worcester,—which Address has been published in the 12th No. of the 3d Volume of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal. And, by the way, a copy of this Journal ought, as far as practicable, to be put into the hands of every family in New England. It is designed for *domestic*, as well as for *professional* use. And the more the community generally are enlightened on medical subjects, the better will it be for our cause—the cause of true professional science.

I know that to scatter medical information, is, in too great a measure, a thankless business, and must be so, for a considerable time to come. In general, the people very much prefer to be kept in ignorance of the matters of our profession, and to be humbugged out of their healths, and their money. If they recover from the first attacks of disease, without being much sick, the experience has nothing in it very interesting. But, if they are brought to



death's door, and, from that point, recover by a slow and protracted process, or, what is more admirable, never recover at all, but dwindle out a miserable existence for some years afterwards, they seem highly satisfied. Whether it is a love of the marvellous, or a desire to sacrifice to some false deity, I could never understand; but, soberly, it has always seemed to me to be about as intelligent a submission as that of the East Indian idolater, who swings in the air, by hooks in his back, expecting thereby to appease an offended idol, or to merit the bliss of annihilation.

*O tempora! O mores!* Tell me no more of civilization, and the refinements of science,—talk not to me of the progress of morality and an intelligent piety, as found with such as really sacrifice themselves, and sacrifice their neighbors on the altar of the idol prejudice. There is a book, whose instructions I am wont very much to prize, and from which I have learnt, that “they that are without law, are perishing without law; but they that are under the law shall be judged by the law.” And, seriously and religiously, I very much doubt, whether a nominal and unenlightened Christianity which really sacrifices far more lives than ever the guillotine and the flames have done, is so much more acceptable to Deity than the religion of the Hindoo or the Hottentot. Far be it from me, to cast any reflections on the institutions of our holy religion. They are sacred and dear to my heart. But I cannot believe, that an attachment to some *speculative* creed, however true, will be found a substitute for neglecting the great purpose for which our social natures are given us—doing good to our race, instead of destroying it. I have somewhere been taught that “the mint, anise, and cummin,” are of no avail, while “the weightier matters of the law, justice, mercy, and faith, (fidelity)” are neglected.

But, to return from this digression, my leading purpose, in these remarks, is to consider medicine as a science. I wish to call your attention, briefly, to the progress which it has already made, that which it has still to make, and the means of accomplishing the work yet to be done.

In tracing the history of medicine, I have already intimated, that we find it, thus far, to have existed as little more than an art. As a science, it has had but a few glimmerings,—especially, in early times. Till a very late period, it is well known, that Anato-

my, Surgery, and Physiology had scarcely even an embryo existence, as branches of medical science.

As dissections of dead bodies were not, till of late, performed, of course, nothing which could be called the science of Anatomy was previously understood.

Before the 16th century, some Surgical operations, it is true, were performed, where imperious necessity compelled them; but the means of restraining the blood, by ligatures applied to the divided arteries, was neither practised nor understood. The only resort, in those days, was scorching the bleeding wound, with a red-hot iron, plunging it into boiling pitch, or applying strong potential cauteries to its surface. Sometimes, a little refinement of this barbarous custom was practiced, and amputations were performed with red-hot knives, so as to divide the parts, and arrest the hæmorrhage at the same instant. This exquisitely humane practice was introduced by Hildanus, the patriarch of German Surgery, if Surgery it might be called. An art, to some extent, indeed, it was, but to call it a science, would be a misnomer, surely.

That but very little was known of Physiology, in early times, numerous facts might easily be adduced in proof. One, however, and that a well known one, will suffice. William Harvey, an English physician, discovered the circulation of the blood, early in the 17th century. It was in the year 1616, that he laid open his discovery, in his Course of Lectures on Anatomy and Surgery,—he having the year previous, been appointed Lecturer on those branches, by the College of Physicians. That the blood has some sort of movement in the system, was, of course, previously known. Its flowing freely from accidental wounds, and in such Surgical operations as were performed, was proof of this. Still, the only prevailing notions, were vague and absurd. Some supposed, that the blood was superficial at one season of the year, and deeper-seated at another. Others supposed, that it came to the surface in the day-time, and passed to the internal parts at night. Little or nothing was known of the character of the arterial and nervous systems.

Of Pathology, the knowledge has been very imperfect, even till within a few years past. Long since, Anatomy and Surgery have been cultivated and understood, to a considerable extent, but little has been known respecting the nature of the changes, which the



system undergoes by disease. The ancients had an idea, that somehow, luxurious and intemperate habits introduced disease; but, in what that disease consisted, they seem to have had scarcely the shadow of a thought. Not understanding the office of the organs of the human body, nor even their structure, they, of course, could have no correct impression in regard to their morbid changes.

The Jews, we know, and other nations, regarded certain animals as unclean,—in other words, certain kinds of animal food, especially, were considered unsuitable to be eaten. Horace alludes to the supposed introduction of disease, by means of unsuitable methods of cooking. He says, in one of his odes,

“ Atrox Iapeti genus  
 Ignem fraude mala gentibus intulit;  
 Post ignem ætheria domo  
 Subductum, *Macies* et nova *Febrium*  
 Terris incubuit cohors.  
 Semotique prius tarda *necessitas*  
*Leti*, corripuit gradum.”

It is only in the matter of *Materia Medica*, that any thing like an approach to science among, either the ancients or the moderns, can, till of late, be said to have existed. But, even here, all that has heretofore been understood, in regard to the *modus operandi* of remedies, has been learnt from experience. It is the result only of a careful observation of the apparent effects of particular medicines, when administered; —in other words, it is a reasoning from induction.

This is a method of arriving at truths, often, it is true, to be relied on with entire confidence. “It is founded,” in the language of Prof. Hedge, “on the belief, that the course of nature is governed by uniform laws, and that things will happen in future, as we have observed them to happen in time past. We can have no proof of a permanent connexion between any events, or between any two qualities, either of body or of mind. The only reason for supposing such a connexion, in any instance, is, that we have invariably found certain things to have been conjoined in fact; and this experience, in many cases, produces a conviction, equal to that of demonstration.

“When a property has been found in many subjects of a similar kind, and no contradictory instance has been discovered, though



diligently sought, we have an irresistible persuasion, that the same property belongs to all the individuals of that class. Thus, having applied a magnet to several masses of iron, and found uniformly a strong attraction to take place, we feel no doubt, that it belongs to the nature of iron to be thus affected by that substance; and, though our experience reaches only to a small part of the masses of iron in existence, we assert, with confidence, that all iron is susceptible of magnetical attraction. So, having often noticed, that by the application of heat to a certain degree, water is made to boil, and that, in the absence of heat to a certain degree, it becomes congealed; and having ascertained these changes to be uniform, so far as they have been observed by ourselves and others, we readily ascribe them to the nature of water, and conclude, that in every country, water will boil or freeze, on being exposed to those opposite degrees of temperature.

“In this way, by observations and experiments, on individuals of a similar kind, noticing with exactness their agreement, or the circumstances in which they differ, we obtain general truths relating to the properties and laws of material objects.”

“As we deduce the common properties of a single class of beings from observations on individuals of that class, so, by comparing individuals of different classes, we discover important resemblances between one species and another, and are enabled to obtain more extensive conclusions. Thus, having seen the milk of several animals of different species, and found it uniformly to be white, we conclude, that the milk of all animals is so. In like manner, having witnessed the effect of fire on several pieces of gold, iron, lead, and so forth, we affirm that all metals are fusible. In this way, beginning with individuals, we ascend to species; and thence proceed, from less general to more general conclusions, till we arrive at those abstract propositions, which are called axioms, or general truths.”

“Inductive conclusions will amount to moral certainty, whenever our experience has been uniform, and the number of cases examined, sufficiently numerous. But this reasoning is liable to be fallacious through impatience in the investigation, by which judgments are hastily formed, without a sufficient accumulation of facts. The number of instances, required to justify a general conclusion,

must be increased, in proportion as the facts, from which we reason, are more irregular in their appearance. In judging concerning the properties of inanimate matter, a general inference may sometimes be drawn from a small number of particular cases. If, for example, *aqua fortis* has been known to dissolve silver in one instance, the presumption is very strong, that it will do so in all. But the success which may happen to attend a medicine, in a simple instance, furnishes but a slight presumption, with regard to its general operation on the human body.

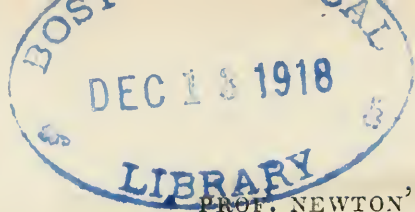
“When our experience has not been uniform, the conclusions we make will fall short of certainty. An equal number of favorable and unfavorable instances leaves the mind in a state of suspense, without exciting the smallest expectation on either side. As the ratio, which the instances on the two sides bear to each other, may vary indefinitely, so must the judgments, founded on them, vary, in a like degree, from the neighborhood of certainty, down to that of entire improbability.”

Now, so far, indeed, as the principles of inductive reasoning have been followed, in the matter of *Materia Medica*, the conclusions which have been drawn, have been truly scientific; but, the extent, to which these principles have been applied, has been extremely limited. Among the ancients, there were some correct applications; but, strange though it may seem, the moderns have, till lately, retroceded, rather than advanced, from the positions of their predecessors.

The ancients sought their remedies almost exclusively from the vegetable kingdom; but, probably, this was more from an incidental and common-sense kind of impression, than from any distinct and intelligible reason for so doing. Of the fact, we have the most abundant evidence. Pliny, speaking of Botany, says, “*Hinc nata medicina. Hæc sola naturæ placuerat esse remedia, parata vulgo, inventu facilia, ac sine impendio.*” Virgil also says, “*Scire potestates herbarum, usumque medendi.*” “The oil of olives and wine,” “the balm of Gilead,” and like remedies, were principally relied on by the ancient Jews. Indeed, every nation sought its remedies principally, if not entirely, from roots, and leaves, and herbs, or something of a Botanic kind.

But how have the moderns refined on this practice? Content to





be ignorant of the *modus operandi* of medicines, they have gone to experimenting; and, not regarding the discoveries made where they might reasonably be looked for, as having sufficient attractions, they have resorted to the use, and tried the efficacy of the most unnatural agents. They have ransacked the bowels of the earth, to find the minerals the most unsuited to the human system. So far from seeking out agents whose effects are most congenial with the laws of the human constitution, they seem to have made it an object to thwart the operations of nature, as much as possible.

Hear the testimony of standard authority, respecting the Paracelsian Golioth—the Herculean remedy introduced by Paracelsus in the beginning of the 16th century. “Of the *modus operandi* of mercury,” says the United States Dispensatory, “we know nothing, except that it *probably* acts through the medium of the circulation, and that it possesses a *peculiar* alterative power over the vital functions, which enables it, in many cases, to subvert diseased action, by *substituting its own in their stead*.” “Mercury,” says Cullen, “acts as a stimulus to every sensible and moving fibre of the body. What the peculiar character of the excitement which it produces, may be, *it would be in vain to inquire*; but it appears to be more permanent and universal, than that of any other medicinal agent with which we are acquainted.”

Similar admissions have been made by standard authors generally; and what is thus true of mercury is essentially true of several other, if not of all, the most important agents employed by physicians of the Allopathic School. Now, if to use articles as medicines, especially such deadly articles as mercury, and its associates, without knowing anything about their mode of operation, is not empiricism, I am unable to understand the import of the term. Not know the *modus operandi* of mercury!!! We do know it; and we also know, that he is a quack who uses it,—doubly so, if he uses it in ignorance of its nature.

After all, the most intelligent and candid of those who are of the old-school faith, readily acknowledge the true position of the profession. Dr. Rush, for instance, a name of deservedly high honor in the works of Allopathy, freely admits, “We have assisted in multiplying diseases;—we have done more—we have increased their mortality.” Dr. Magendie, a celebrated French physiologist,



says, "I hesitate not to declare, (no matter how sorely I shall wound our vanity,) that, so great is our ignorance of the real nature of the physiological disorders, called diseases, that it would, perhaps, be better to do nothing, and resign the complaint we are called on to treat, to the resources of nature, than to act, as we are frequently compelled to do, without knowing the why or wherefore of our conduct, and at the obvious risk of hastening the end of the patient." Dr. Good, well known as an eminent English physician, says, "The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicine on the human system are, in the highest degree, uncertain,—except, indeed, that they have already destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine combined." Dr. Abercrombie, also, another of the lights of the profession in England, says, "We own our system defective, and the action of our remedies, in the highest degree, uncertain."

Time would fail me,—for it would take hours and days even,—to quote all the published and well known testimony of accredited and high authority on this subject;—the testimony of men who were candid enough to own the truth, in this case, and yet, after all, too much blinded by ignorance and prejudice, to discover "a more excellent way." But, if it is not empiricism to give medicines, especially the most important medicines,—without knowing their nature, or any uniform effect which may be expected from them, I say again, I know not what is the meaning of the term,—I must ask others to define it.

With what propriety the charge of quackery is cast upon us, who are attempting to introduce a rational and common-sense mode of treatment, facts, like the above, will, to some extent, show. At least, to my own mind, they render it plain, that Allopathists have not all reason, to say of themselves, "We are the people, and wisdom shall die with us." It has been said, that "those who build their own houses of glass, should not throw stones at their neighbors' houses." In this case, however, we do not admit, that our dwellings are made of glass. That there are Botanics, or Thomsonians, or Indian doctors, or some other classes of practitioners, who are verily quacks, I do not doubt; but they do not belong to our ranks, any more than they belong to the ranks of Allopathists. They profess to be doctors; and so do we, and so do Allopathists.

If, in some instances, they take a name adapted to associate them, in the public mind, with ourselves,—that we cannot prevent their doing. And so, in religion, “men sometimes steal the livery of heaven, to serve the devil in;” but that does not prove genuine Christianity a humbug and a farce.

Suppose, however, we had to admit, that some practitioners who claim a standing among us, are, actually, not very well qualified for professional duties, how is it with Allopathists? Are they not in the same condemnation? Hear the remarks of an accredited writer in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. “It is not unusual for one to pass with one stride, *ex fabrica*, to a physician’s office, where he tarries just long enough to leave his name. Then, returning to his occupation, he pursues that, while he is nominally a pupil in medicine. When the Lecture Term commences, he bids a hasty farewell to his workshop, and soon enrols his name as a member of a Medical Class. He matriculates, pays the fees, hears the Introductory Lecture, and then returns to his laudable and appropriate employment. In this way, the three years of probation are spent; at the end of which, he is summoned before the Faculty for examination and approval. With a consciousness of his deficiency, and with fearful forebodings as to the result, he seats himself in their presence. After stating the medical properties of *oleum ricini*, missing a few questions in chemistry, telling how many extremities the *femur* has, and giving a practical demonstration of *paralysis agitans*, he is declared competent, and sent out into the world, to take charge of the lives and health of the community. Such is the history of the pupillage of not a few of those who bear the title of ‘M. D.’

“The requisites for graduation are merely nominal. No attendance upon the Lectures is required; and the final examination is a mere pretence. The fact is well known and taken advantage of, by scores, who creep into our ranks, with no more knowledge than could be acquired by three months study.” Thus says Dr. I. F. Galloupe of Lynn, Mass.

I simply add, that what is thus admitted to be true of Allopathists, we do not permit among ourselves. We are the unblenching advocates of a thorough professional training. From the Worcester Medical Institution, a medical dunce, I trust, will not very soon go forth, bearing its honors.



But I hasten to sketch, in a very brief manner, the progress which true medical science has yet to make. In addition to the knowledge of Anatomy, the subjects of Physiology and Pathology are to be far more definitely understood. I contend, that the profession are destined to know, not only the various offices of the several organs of the human system, but much respecting the processes by which the several tissues are formed, and respecting the various connexions and sympathies existing between the different organs. We must also know in what way disease is introduced into the system, what the precise organic change is, in what organ or tissue the disease is primary, and in what secondary, and how one morbid condition leads to another. Animal and organic chemistry, I believe, is destined yet, to show us much respecting the nature of the vital processes, and the reasons which render some remedies better adapted to the system, than others. The *modus operandi* of every kind of medicines is to be understood. We are to know how far every agent acts in harmony with physiological laws, and how far it contravenes those laws. It is already known, that animals are nourished by organized matter only, either animal or vegetable. Minerals, therefore, being unorganized, cannot be incorporated into the system to sustain it. If they ever do any good, it must be by acting as excitants, while they are conveyed over the system as foreign matter. How far they are retained in the system, by ordinary chemical affinities, is to be known. In short, the several modes of action, usually denominated mechanical, chemical, and vital, must be understood. The nature of the nervous fluid, or the difference between it and simple electricity is to be known, and how far the latter may become a substitute for the former. We are to understand the morbid changes produced by any disease, and how those changes can be counteracted, and the parts suffering the lesion restored. Such are merely references to the work which is to be done.

I allude, finally, to the means by which this improvement in medical science is to be effected. New truth, on any subject, is elicited sometimes, indeed, by the penetrating energies of individuals, but, generally, by the united efforts of associated minds. The views of different individuals are compared, their discrepancies are pointed out, the reasons for the reception of any new views are canvass-



ed and carefully weighed. The true light, shown by two or more individuals, is concentrated to one point. In this way, conjectural or doubtful views are, at length, made certain; and, as new truths become established, the way is prepared, for the examination of others.

On this part of the subject, however, I cannot, perhaps, do better than to quote a few lines from the Address already alluded to, as delivered on a former occasion. Physicians "need motives to induce them, in the spirit of true liberality, cheerfully to concede to each other the privilege of enjoying freedom of thought, and of investigating untrammelled any professional subject.

"Besides, every one who begins to open his eyes to the reception of light, finds in them a tendency to close, under the influence of arbitrary authority and an over-bearing restrictive system. This condition of things calls for the mutual aid of medical men, in developing new truths and new modes of arriving at the decision of the question, What is truth? The selfishness of the profession has often proved a moral incubus effectually repressing all efforts to effect a common good. But an association, whose avowed object is the cultivation of a spirit of benevolence, and the casting of new light on the prevailing darkness, may be made of the highest interest and value. Such an association, by its code of regulations, by its standard of personal etiquette and social duties, and by its uniform bearing on all its members, may have the most happy influence, in suppressing whatever is mercenary and selfish, and in developing the higher and better principles of our social nature.

"Nor is this all. Other important ends are also subserved by the same means. The comparing of views, and even the collision of opposing minds, often gives existence to entirely new trains of thought, and develops truths which otherwise might have remained forever concealed. In a Society formed for mutual professional improvement, its members may compare observations, communicate the results of their experience, and thus become better prepared to judge of the intrinsic merit of any particular suggestion or prescribed course. An influence of this kind is the more important, from the consideration, that prejudice interposes many barriers and even organizes *cliques* to prevent the progress of truth. A perfectly blind attachment to doctrines which have been arbitrarily inculca-

ted, exists with many ; and, if any of their brethren manifest a disposition to break away from the shackles of authority, they are ever ready to fulminate threats of non-intercourse and excommunication. Under circumstances like these, in which error is imposingly presented, and even systematically taught, it is often with difficulty, that one can pursue an unbiased course of investigation. He feels, that the adoption of such a course will subject him to the disapprobation of his brethren, especially of those whose word is authority ; and he represses his desire for improvement. But let him feel, that he has the sanction of, at least, an honorable portion of the profession, in following wherever truth may guide him, and he will allow correct motives to have their proper weight, and will yield himself up implicitly to the guidance of truth.

“And, besides being aided, by the influence of a liberal social compact, in the investigation of truth, he will also be encouraged to benevolent efforts in advancing the general interests of a common cause. When sustained by the approbation of others, and of an organized body especially, he will feel, that he can labor with effect in opposing a notorious and profligate charlantry and every form of empiricism. The united protests of a respectable body of medical men against all mere routine and ignorant practice will have weight with the community, when the voice of one alone in the crowd, would be unheard. “Union is” always “strength ;” and, by uniting our efforts against quackery in all its forms, we may accomplish much towards its removal. Even that worst form of quackery, which is sanctioned by legal enactments, may be measurably restrained in this way, by levelling against it the artillery of truth, its uncompromising foe.”

In proportion, therefore, to the free interchange of views, and to the kindly efforts made in Societies formed for professional improvement, may we expect the work of medical reform to go on. And those who engage in the most unflinching manner in this work, may bless themselves, as the special benefactors of their race. Their efforts, though now despised by the *would-be* wise and great of the world, will ultimately be owned as the means of redeeming the human race from suffering, and elevating it to a state of comparative happiness and peace.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAY STATE MEDICAL REFORM  
ASSOCIATION.*Lowell, Jan. 3, 1850.*

Agreeably to the Constitution, the Bay State Medical Reform Association met at 10 o'clock, A. M., Geo. W. Churchill M. D., Vice President, in the chair. James S. Coleman M. D. was appointed Secretary, pro tem. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Drs. Bachelder and Fitch, were appointed Counsellors, pro tem.

The Counsellors reported in favor of the application of Drs. Charles Sweet of Kennebunk, Me., Wm. Leach of Merideth bridge, N. H., F. H. Kelley of Lawrence, and H. P. Huntoon of Lowell, Mass., to become members of the Association; whereupon they were severally balloted for and unanimously elected. The following resolutions were adopted.

*Resolved*, That, for the convenience of the officers and members generally of this Association, the names of all its members and their places of residence be hereafter annually published in the N. E. Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, and in other papers, as may be deemed expedient.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to draft a petition and present the same to the Legislature of this State, at its present session, for a charter for this Association; and that the expenses be paid out of the funds of the Association. Drs. Calvin Newton of Worcester, Geo. W. Churchill of Lowell, Aaron Ordway of Lawrence, J. W. Chapman, and Joseph Jackson of Boston were appointed the committee.

*Voted*, that a committee of five be appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The chair appointed Drs. Burnham, Vinall, Batchelder, and Runals of Lowell, and Johnson of Boston, said committee.

*Voted*, That all regular physicans of the Physo-Medical School present, be invited to seats, and to participate in the deliberations of the Association.



*Voted*, That a committee consisting of Drs. Newton, Churchill, and Burnham be appointed to revise the Constitution, and to report at the next meeting, in July.

Dr. Burnham, from the committee to nominate officers, reported the following list. For President, Joseph Jackson, M. D. of Boston; Vice President, Charles Toothaker, M. D. of Lowell; Secretary, Dr. Geo. W. Churchill; Treasurer, Dr. A. D. Runals; Counsellors, Drs. Calvin Batchelder, L. W. Jenness, and George W. Dadd; Auditor, Dr. W. D. Vinall; Librarian, Dr. J. W. Perkins. These were balloted for, and unanimously elected.

A communication from A. W. Blakesley of New York city was read, and ordered to be placed on file.

On motion of the Secretary, Orran P. Warren, M. D., President of the New Hampshire Medical Society, was elected an honorary member of this Association. The views of the Association were then presented by several gentlemen, among whom were Drs. Burnham, Newton, Olcott, Churchill, and others, who stated that the Association hold strictly to the NO POISON PRINCIPLE. DR. WARREN then came forward, and made some pertinent and appropriate remarks, signed the Constitution, and took his seat as a member of the body.

Dr. Olcott offered the following resolution, which was unanimously accepted.

*Resolved*, That the Bay State Medical Reform Association cordially receive the Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, as proposed to be printed in form and matter,—the latter on the NO POISON principle,—as the accredited organ of this body.

*Voted*, That the next meeting of the Association be held in Lawrence.

In the evening the Association listened to an able address from PROF. NEWTON; at the close of which, *Prof. Burnham* moved a vote of thanks, and a request that Prof. Newton publish his address in the Journal.

*Voted*, That the proceedings be published in the Journal.

On motion, adjourned to meet again in the city of Lawrence on THE FIRST THURSDAY of JULY, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

GEO. W. CHURCHILL, *Secretary*.

## CATALOGUE OF THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OF THE

BAY STATE MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION,

*For the year commencing on the first Thursday of January, 1850.**President*, JOSEPH JACKSON, M. D., Boston.*Vice President*, CHAS. TOOTHAKER, M. D., Lowell.*Secretary*, GEO. W. CHURCHILL, M. D., “*Treasurer*, Dr. A. D. RUNALS, “*Counsellors*, CALVIN BACHELDER, M. D., DR. D. W. JENNESS, Lowell, GEO. W. DADD, M. D., Boston.*Auditor*, Dr. WILLIAM D. VINALL, Lowell.*Librarian*, Dr. J. W. PERKINS, “*Censors*, JAMES S. COLEMAN, M. D., CALVIN BACHELDER, M. D., Lowell, CHAS. M. SWEET, Kennebunkport, Me.

## MEMBERS.

Prof. Calvin Newton, Worcester.	Dr. Samuel Pitcher, Jr., Hyannis,
Dr. Stephen Cutler, “	“ J. V. Wilson, Waterville, Me.
Dr. John Hooker, “	“ John R. Patten, Salem,
Prof. W. Burnham, Lowell,	“ J. W. Chapman, Boston,
Dr. S. C. Ames, “	“ Joseph Cheever, “
“ Geo. L. Harris, “	“ C. Tewksbury, “
“ James S. Olcott, “	“ Benj. F. Abbott, “
“ Vine H. Fitch, “	“ Joshua Abbott, “
“ M. E. Thompson, “	“ Henry Cummings, “
“ H. P. Huntton, “	“ James R. Whittemore, Cam-
“ P. L. Simmons, Bristol, N. H.	bridgeport,
“ Geo. W. Skinner, Newbury-	“ Lloyd Goodnow, Quincy,
port,	“ Aaron Ordway, Lawrence,
“ Alvah M. Higgins, Townsend,	“ F. H. Kelley, “
“ Wm. E. Lord, E. Boston,	“ Wm. Leach, Meridith, N. H.
“ H. H. Brigham, Fitchburg,	“ Orran P. Warren, Pittsfield, “
“ Franklin Gilman, Middleboro’,	“ Addison W. Pratt, Lowell.



## BOTANIC SURGERY.

PROF. NEWTON:—Feeling a good degree of interest in the Journal under your care, I have thought proper to pen a few lines for its columns, intended for the benefit, in some way, of its readers.

I would mention a few cases in surgery, which have been under my care, as many communities have the impression that Thomsonians never ought to be trusted with any case in surgery.

The first was a case of simple transverse fracture of the radius of the right arm of a lad about twelve years of age. The accident occurred in a fall from a loft in a stable, upon a floor, at a distance of about 10 feet,—the back of the hand receiving the blow. I was called in, about half an hour after the casualty, and consequently before much inflammation had taken place about the parts. The bone was placed in its natural position, in about ten minutes, in the use of means which we call consistent; and the arm was ready for active service again, in about two weeks.

The second case was that of a lad about thirteen years of age, with a compound transverse fracture of the fore-arm,—the ulna and radius both being brought into an angle of about 45 degrees. This accident occurred, June 29, 1849. While the boy was swinging on the cross-bar of a stable door, losing his hold, he fell backward; and the hand, taking a supine position, brought the force in such a direction, as to throw the bones into the angle above mentioned. Before I arrived, the integuments and parts about the fracture had become inflamed, so that I thought proper to occupy near half an hour, in reducing the inflammation and relaxing the muscles, before replacing the bones. After relaxation had taken place, the bones retroverted to their wonted position, with much ease, and with but trifling pain to the patient. This case did well, and the patient soon recovered.

The third case was a dislocation of the ankle joint,—the tibia and fibula both being displaced. The foot was turned inwards, and the lower end of the tibia came upon the ground, on which the young lad fell, with such force, that the bone nearly perforated the skin. Of this kind of dislocation, J. S. Bartlett, M. D., of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, speaks in these terms. “This



luxation is the most dangerous of the three (dislocations of the ankle); for it is produced by greater violence,—is attended with more contusion of the integuments, more laceration of ligaments, and greater injury to the bone.” I was urged to the place, one mile distant, as quickly as horse power would convey me and before any perceptive change had occurred, so that I could discover at once the state of the joint. Being sensible of the danger which some physicians have found to attend this kind of dislocation, I thought proper to have the parts in as good a condition as possible, before attempting the reduction.

*Method.* Have a large shallow vessel placed beneath the limb,—the vessel filled partly with water as hot as the flesh will bear, the limb encircled with a cotton bandage of many thicknesses, which is to be kept wet with the water, having hot water added to the vessel to keep up and rather increase the heat, the patient lying in an easy position on the bed. Continue this process, from fifteen to thirty, or even sixty minutes, according to the nature of the case, and the length of time that has elapsed since the luxation.

In this case, I kept this patient under the relaxing process about 40 minutes; after which I had one steady-handed assistant grasp the knee-joint, and another, (with a firm bandage passed around the foot near the joint,) draw the foot steadily and moderately in a right line with the limb, while I grasped the ankle joint firmly with the hands, in such a way as to trace every movement of the bones. Thus I proceeded in this case, and, in about ten seconds after removing the hot envelope, the joint was smoothly in its place;—the bones returning with entire ease to the patient.

This was a case of rapid recovery, though some surgeons urge the importance of many weeks of close confinement to the bed, and even weeks of confinement to the crutches, after the weeks of confinement to the bed. More anon, Yours, &c.,

W. C. STAPLE.

*Industry, Dec. 20, 1849.*

## FUNDS OF THE WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The friends of medical reform must be interested to know the condition of the cause, generally, in this country. There is, however, a solicitude deeper than this felt, by individuals, for the advancement of whatever pertains to this reform, in their several localities.

For example; the establishment of a reformed medical College, in any section of country, will, as a matter of course, engage the attention of the friends in that vicinity, more fully than others;—especially, if they have contributed to its support. Those who have so contributed, not only wish to know, but of right ought to be informed of the present condition, and future prospects of the Institution, to which they have given their aid.

The establishment of the Worcester Medical Institution has already been the means of raising up many new friends to the cause of reform, in the practice of medicine; as well as of gaining, from old ones, their aid and co-operation; and these friends have contributed liberally towards the permanent support of the Institution. A portion of the subscriptions have already been paid in for the benefit of the College, although a very large amount remains unpaid.

Having acted as agent in raising these funds, it is proper, that I should lay before the public a statement of what has been done with the money which has passed through my hands.

I have received pledges for between six and seven thousand dollars. Of this sum, eight hundred dollars only have been paid. There has been expended, between Oct. 1, 1848, and Dec. 1, 1849, one thousand one hundred and sixty dollars. A part of this money, of course, has been expended for Agency, and the remainder has been invested in such Apparatus as was imperiously necessary for the use of the College. Indeed, the sum which has been expended, leaves a balance due from the Institution, of three hundred and sixty dollars. Of this sum, the President has advanced a part in cash, and has given his own security for the most of the remainder.

The question has frequently been asked me;—What do you want now of the money, which has been subscribed? We want



enough, in the first place, to pay the debts of the Institution, incurred as above-mentioned. In the second place, we want the remainder of the subscriptions, to build a College edifice. This is greatly needed; but, on the work, the Trustees are unwilling to enter, until they see, in those who have subscribed, a disposition to pay their instalments, as they become due. S. CUTLER.

## TO THE FRIENDS OF MEDICAL REFORM.

The subscriber proposes to publish, on subscription, a work on *Surgery* with the following title.

“THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY,—Developing the principles of the reformed practice and conforming strictly to those principles in the treatment recommended. By S. BURGESS CHAPMAN, M. D.”

“If Poisons and Depletion are superceded, in the *general* practice of *medicine*, by safer and more efficient means, why should not the department of *Surgery* share in the benefits, by also adopting the *Physo-Medical* system,—thereby inviting *nature* to participate in the recuperative efforts?”

The work will contain, in all, not less than *eight hundred pages*, perhaps more. It will be published in numbers of thirty-two or sixty-four pages monthly,—the larger number, if circumstances will permit. The whole will be divided into five parts. Each number will be put up in a cover, and neatly stitched in pamphlet form, convenient for binding when the work is completed. The first number will be issued as soon as a sufficient number of subscriptions is obtained to warrant a commencement of the publication.

• Each part will be sent to subscribers at one dollar (, always commencing with the first number), making the whole work five dollars, if taken by numbers,—with the privilege of stopping it at the completion of any part. Four dollars will pay for the work, if the whole be subscribed for at the commencement.

The author has been at great pains in the preparation of the work. He has availed himself largely of the productions of many



authors for the descriptive part ; and, by stripping it of all unnecessary matter and thus condensing it, he thinks he has conferred a benefit upon those whose time is of too much value to be wasted.

Much new and important matter and many new and valuable prescriptions will be given in the progress of the work. No prescription, however, will be given, which has not been tested in the same or similar forms of disease. By this effort, the author hopes to do much to rid, of cruelty, this department of the healing art, and to save many suffering fellow-beings from the pain and anxiety attendant upon surgical operations of the graver class. He is satisfied, by experience and observation, that, in the practice of Surgery, far too much has been done by *art*, and consequently too little left for nature to accomplish in her own way. The use of instruments cannot be wholly dispensed with, it is true ; but nature is by far the best operator, when she is equal to the task. She, however, like the most skilful surgeon, sometimes requires the aid of a less ingenious operator, to assist in the process. It is then and then only, that the surgeon should interfere, to render that assistance which she demands.

The author has been hesitating for some time, hoping that some one better qualified to perform the difficult task, would undertake the work which he now offers to the profession. He is well aware, that the attendant difficulties are enough to employ the highest order of talent. But he has seen that talent employed is establishing the principles upon which the present work is based, and in establishing Schools for the dissemination of those principles, leaving those, thus concerned, no time to attend to this matter at present. He, therefore, urged by the inconvenience which he has himself experienced, and which has been complained of by others, many of whom have desired him to make the attempt, has at length been induced to engage in the undertaking.

The intelligent portion of the profession are too well aware of the obstacles to be encountered in the accomplishment of the design, to expect any thing like perfection at first. He, therefore, trusts to their liberality and candor, to look charitably upon the many imperfections which he is conscious the work must contain ; and he submits his efforts to the judgment of that class of physicians who know how to discriminate between *medicines* and *poisons*, and

would aid nature with the one, instead of opposing her with the other. He now awaits the judgment of that tribunal in which he will cheerfully acquiesce.

Any information not contained in this Prospectus will be cheerfully given on application.

As the work will contain the report of some cases illustrative of principles, any cases of interest, faithfully detailed, will be thankfully received, if forwarded soon.

All communications must be postpaid and addressed to S. BURGESS CHAPMAN, M. D., Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill.

All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Should the sale of the work warrant, a sixth part will be added, at a reasonable additional expense, and will be got out next summer. This will contain a large number of plates illustrating the work. Should this part be added, the author will find it necessary to go East, before completing it.

S. BURGESS CHAPMAN.

*Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill., Jan. 1, 1850.*

N. B. All papers having a medical department, shall receive a copy of the work, for publishing this Prospectus in three papers and sending a copy to the author.

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## THE GOLDEN MEAN.

That the popular mind is, at the present day, beginning to be thoroughly aroused upon the subject of medicine, is very evident.

The great Republic of the Profession, (if we may be allowed the expression,) may be divided into two great classes of people:—the *Conservatives*, and the *Radicals*. The former sustain to the latter, almost precisely the same relations which the Tories of England do to the Whigs. These parties are now arrayed against each other, and the war between them may be said to have fairly commenced.

What the result of this contest will be, we know not. We are inclined, however, to believe, that a compromise will eventually be



effected, and perhaps a perpetual armistice be concluded. At present, the struggle promises to be exciting and long continued. The Conservatives are marshalling their hosts, and buckling on their armor; and, following the guidance of that time-honored ensign, bearing for its motto, the words,—“*That alone is true in medicine, which has the sanction of the past,*” are pressing onward to the contest. In the front ranks stands many a gray-haired veteran, whose pride it is, that it falls to his lot to fight fearlessly for the faith of past centuries. The Radicals, on the other hand, spurning alike the traditions and the experience of the past, and supposing that the truth yet lies in embryo, have unfurled their banners to the breeze, and command an

“Eternal war,  
Irreconcilable to their grand foe.”

But enough of badinage. We have made use of a few figurative expressions, simply that they may suggest some themes for reflection. In view of the division of the people into the lovers of the *antique* and the lovers of the *novel*, the question naturally arises, Which party adopts the truest principle as its guide?

For our own part, though we believe in what is generally called the reformed system of medical practice, we cannot but fear, that Radicalism is as dangerous as Conservatism. Here, perhaps, we ought to explain more definitely what we mean by Radicalism. We mean by it an idea directly opposed to that conveyed in Conservatism. The Radical reposes his confidence in the *new*, in speculative theories, and in the crazy dreams of mesmer-ridden philosophy. He would sooner believe in the revelations of some poor candidate for an Insane Asylum, than in truths scientifically demonstrated. The mysterious words of advice, whispered from the oracular lips of some Indian doctress, would have far greater weight with him, than the discoveries of chemists, or the demonstrations of theorists. In fine, he is an empiric, contemning the accumulating lore of centuries, refusing to be guided by the light of experience;—in fact, he is “carried about by every wind of doctrine.”

As for ourselves, we would rather trust our health in the hands of a Conservative than in the hands of a Radical. Generally, we consider it safer to trust to a tried than to an untried policy. Still,



we cannot regret the formation of the Radical party. Radicalism in medicine will serve as an incentive to investigation into the laws of animal economy. Investigations will be followed by discoveries, and discoveries in this branch of knowledge will conduce to the amelioration of the human race. We most assuredly believe in progress; but, in progressing, do not let us forget to count the steps already trod. In the words of an eloquent defender of human rights, let us ever be "conservative Reformers, and reforming Conservatives."

SOPHOMORICUS.

### THE PROGRESS OF REFORM.

MR. EDITOR,—*Dear Sir*,—It is with pleasure I congratulate you, in your philanthropy and prosperity in the good cause of medical reform. It is a cause in which I have been interested for a series of years, and for which I have suffered many serious trials, on account of the lack of a medical education, on scientific and consistent principles. Although aware of my deficiency in regard to a thorough knowledge of Anatomy and Materia Medica, the means and place to obtain that knowledge not being at hand, and the prejudice of Dr. Thomson, the founder of the system, having an influence on the mind, there was, of course, a tendency to reject the idea that an education was necessary to carry forward the God-like reform.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since I embraced the botanic practice, confident that I was led by the light of truth in going forth, as a reformer and a benefactor of my fellow men, though under discouraging circumstances. I have not been disappointed in my expectations, in seeing truth prevail, which is mighty and is destined thus to do. It is highly gratifying to learn, that popular prejudice is yielding, and that the public are awaking to their own interest, in the practice of medical reform.

Taking a retrospect of the past, when the friends of the cause were few and far between, and comparing that with the present condition and progress of the botanic system, how great is the con-

trast! Now there are very few places containing more than two or three thousand inhabitants, which do not support a reform physician, or are ready to do so, when a suitable one can be obtained.

Feeling the importance of a thorough professional education, I cannot forbear recommending to every young man, who has any idea of entering the field of medical reform as a practitioner, to avail himself of the facilities now offered at Worcester. By so doing, he will be qualified to compete with his opponents, and will be able to bring to nought things which have been a curse to the world, and the destruction of thousands of his fellow men.

Wishing you prosperity, I remain yours, &c.,

*Fall River, Jan. 7th, 1850.*

M. L. PRIEST.

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### CASES REPORTED.

PROFESSOR NEWTON;—Dear as the views of any class of medical men may be, truth, and only that, will stand the test. I shall, in the following remarks, be guided by facts, as they occurred, first, in the case of Mrs. Mary Aldrich of this town; whose *accouchement* took place in September last, and who was attended by an Allopathic physician.—She got up slowly, and, after some exposure, consulted the same physician; who, when some three or four weeks had elapsed, said, that he could do no more than double or treble the doses. After some days of reflection, she ventured to despatch a messenger for myself, and I arrived at the place, on the 21st of October. I found her, with what is called a milk leg, and very low, although she had before been healthy and robust. Her appetite was gone, her milk dried up, and her capillary system closed. She had great thirst, and febrile symptoms, with pain in the left leg, and was almost helpless.

I commenced with the vapor bath, and pure stimulants, and had the limb rubbed with the stimulating liniment.

October 23, I made another visit, applied the bath, gave a portion of *rudbeckia* for the water, and continued the stimulants. I saw her again on the 28th, and gave her a *lobelia emetic*. The pain and swelling left the limb, her appetite was restored, her skin became moist, her milk returned, and I dismissed her.

Note, when some of the Allopathists found that I had been called, they raised the hypocritical cry, that she would die; but, like the gallows of Haman, this was to their hurt.

Two other cases. A daughter, aged 18 years, and a son, aged 15, children of Mr. Joseph Palmer of this town, were attacked with the dysentery, which prevailed here with fatal effects, so that seven, in the distance of half a mile, were, in a short time, hurried to the grave.

The attack of the two was as severe as I have ever witnessed. That of the boy yielded on the 2nd day, though, on exposure, he had a relapse; but from this he was soon recovered. That of the lady was hard and stubborn. I had some fears as to the result. The parents were anxious for a speedy recovery, as they had intended to remove to Ohio, about this time. I used the dysentery syrup and neutralizing mixture, together with the vapor bath, lobelia emetics, and stimulating enemata; and, in two weeks, to the great gratification of parents and friends, the family commenced their journey, in good health. So different were the results of these cases from the results of others, which were under Allopathic treatment, and which were a long time in recovering, that the facts have opened the eyes of many, and now the cry is heard, "Come over and help us."

JOHN L. MARTIN.

*Littleton, N. H., Dec. 21st, 1849.*

## Editorial.

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### EXTRA-UTERINE GESTATION.

#### AN UNUSUAL CASE.

The following facts, given us by Mr. Charles Ellis of Uxbridge, Mass., in personal conversations had with him, at different times, on the subject, we have thought sufficiently singular and important to receive a place in our columns.

His first wife, died, (apparently as the immediate result of a sur-



gical operation,) Feb. 1st, 1841. The preceding circumstances of interest are as follows.

Nearly eight years previous to her death, Mrs. Ellis, for the first time, became *enceinte*. The usual time for *accouchement* having arrived and passed, and the expected event not taking place, her attending physician and others called in consultation endeavored to persuade her, that she was mistaken in regard to her condition, and that her external appearance was the result of internal abdominal disease.

At the expiration of the tenth month of her reckoning, she was sensible, as she said, of the death of the fœtus. This idea was regarded by her physicians, as entirely imaginary; and, by the combined force of argument, pleasantry, and ridicule, they endeavored to remove her convictions. All, however, was without effect. She believed hers was a case of ventral conception, and she earnestly and perseveringly requested that the Cæsarean operation might be performed, with the hope of her effectual relief. Of several surgeons who saw her, however, no one was willing to operate, for the simple reason, that all had more confidence in their united diagnosis, than in the conflicting one of their non-professional patient.

At length, Mrs. E., her form remaining essentially unchanged, became satisfied of the existence of a second conception; and, at the proper time, she was, indeed, delivered of a full-grown living child. She, afterwards, gave birth to two others, and two of these three are still living.

During all this time, (the united views of her physicians, and three successive child-births notwithstanding,) her convictions remained unchanged. Her health gradually failed, her person became emaciated, and she was considered *in a decline*!

At last, her entreaties for the performance of an operation were so urgent, that, on Dec. 30th or 31st, 1840, a council of physicians was called to review the case. There were present, Dr. Miller of Franklin, his son of Providence, R. I., and another son, Drs. Willard and Robbins of Uxbridge, Dr. Metcalf of Mendon, Dr. Taft, Dr. Carpenter, and, perhaps, one or two others, residing in the vicinity. By this council, the professional opinion repeatedly expressed before was confirmed; but, to satisfy the mind of the patient, and learn the real condition of things, the desired operation

was resolved on. Dr. Miller of Providence operated, in the presence of the other members of the council.

The result was, that remains of a putrid fœtus, then weighing four pounds, were removed from the abdomen. These remains consisted of bones, and other tissues, partially decayed,—the disorganized portions having been absorbed, and removed by the exhalants from the patient's system. It was then supposed, that the fœtus, at the time of its death, ten months from its conception, must have weighed about ten pounds.

By the influence of disease, the lower portion of the patient's intestines had become so affected and weakened in their textures, that, in the operation, a rupture occurred, and fœcal matter passed from the alimentary canal into the abdominal cavity. From this time till her death, there was no anal evacuation, but the dejections were through the ventral incision, which remained unclosed.

In this case, the most important peculiarity is the three successive gestations, which took place between the periods of the primary conception and the performance of the Cæsarean operation. In this particular, there has seldom, if ever, we believe, been a parallel.

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## NEW WORK ON SURGERY.

We sometime since, announced the fact, that S. Burgess Chapman, M. D., of Galesburg, Illinois, contemplated the publication of a new work on Surgery. We are happy, at length, in giving the author's Prospectus. From what acquaintance we have with him, we are led to think him *the man* for the task. We shall, therefore, expect an able production. The work is very much needed, and we shall await its issue with a good deal of interest.

We sincerely hope, that the friends of the Physo-medical Practice, throughout the country, will give the author their patronage, and that he will find sufficient encouragement to commence the issue immediately. He may put us down as a subscriber for two copies, or even more, if that will be any encouragement to him in the enterprise.

## ENCOURAGEMENT.

We are gratified, that a portion of our subscribers, not only have responded to our expressed views of their pecuniary obligations, and have forwarded us the *needful* in advance, but have also spoken with interest of our unpretending efforts.

One writing from New York State, and speaking of our pamphlet, says, "I esteem it the best medical Journal, for the price, now published, and think it should be patronized by every true friend of medical reform." Another, from the same State, speaks of paying "for your highly interesting medical Journal of the coming year," and then adds, "I say *highly interesting*, because I judge of the future by the past." Another, from our own State, remitting to us the price of his own, and some of his neighbors' subscriptions, to assist us, as he says, "to commence, with a cheerful heart, the new year's race," adds, "I prize the Journal as a valuable contribution to the cause of medical reform, and think its mission cannot well be dispensed with. I sincerely hope, that its friends and patrons will not suffer it to droop, for want of patronage and punctuality." Another still, from a neighboring city in this State, says, "I have received the first number, and should judge from its improved appearance, that it will contain a large amount of interesting matter. Death to the lancet and calomel."

Some of our subscribers, with a little practical attention to our wants, have sent us the names of several new subscribers. Many others, by a trifling effort, might do the same. We hope, that none will expose themselves to the censure incurred by one of old, "Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him." We claim a place in the interested remembrance of our friends.

We still urge, that those having occasion to write us, would give us the names of such Botanic Practitioners as they may happen to be acquainted with,—in New England especially. We wish to extend our acquaintance with the profession, as far as possible.



## OUR NEXT COLLEGE TERM.

Our friends, and those especially who design to be with us as students during the approaching Lecture Term, will bear in mind, that the first Thursday of March, the present year, occurs on the 7th of the month. We are assured of an unusually large Class, having heard of numbers who will be with us, from the South and from the West, as well as from New England. The Faculty of the College now constitute an eminently able board of instruction. In generally there will be five, and sometimes six, Lectures daily, on the different branches of medical science. Our means of illustration in the several departments are now good ; and we are proud to say, we believe we can afford our pupils greater facilities than the Faculty of any college in the country.

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## MEDICAL RECIPES.

*A Diuretic.*—Take of cubebs 1 oz., pleurisy root 1 oz., Holland gin 1 pt. Digest from 7 to 10 days.

Dose,—one or two tea-spoonfuls, every 6 or 12 hours.

This medicine is valuable in any case of urinary difficulty. It is harmless, and has often proved effectual, even where popular remedies have entirely failed.

*Cure for Warts.*—Apply a plaster of tar ; and, renewing it when necessary, wear it till the wart drops off, which will generally be in about a week. It is effectual, and is attended with no pain whatever.

*For Indolent Ulcers.*—Sprinkle on pulverized sal ammoniac, or dissolve it in warm water, and apply the wash, every day or two, as may be necessary. Use, at the same time, a healing salve. For this, the recipe of Dr. Mattson is good. It is, however, improved, by adding pulverized Peruvian bark.

*For Cancers.*—Garget and prickly ash, tinctured in gin and applied externally, are said to have eradicated cancers, without caustic.

*For Hydrocele.*—Camphor, dissolved in brandy and applied externally, has sometimes effected a cure. The same is true of the gum of turpentine, externally applied.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV

WORCESTER, MASS., MARCH 1, 1850.

NO. 3.

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Communications.

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EXCLUSIVENESS, FOUNDED IN IGNORANCE OF THE TRUE  
SCIENCE OF MEDICINE, THE BANE OF THE PROFESSION.

Man is denominated a rational being. Yet, from some undefinable cause in his existence, it would seem, that he possesses some more striking characteristics of irrationality, than any other class of beings that inhabit the globe. I allude to extremes exhibited generally in matters of religion and science, but in nothing so much as in the science and practice of medicine.

The wildest extremes are those predicated solely on hypothesis. Such claim exclusiveness in theory and *practice*. The two exclusive *extremes*, which I care to notice in this article, are *Homæopathy*

on the one hand, and *Hydrotherapy* on the other; the sad effects of which are accumulating daily, affording a practical demonstration of their perniciousness and inutility.

If men, with the wet sheet and bathing tub, will be *sober* and tell us (what we have known ever since we have known anything about medicine), that the various applications of water are a valuable auxilliary to the healing art, I am most ready to admit it; but, when I see them, like wild maniacs, reprobating at once and forever the use of efficient and healthful medicines, on which the God of nature has imprinted his own signet of approbation, I think it time, that the public mind should be informed upon this subject.

If we take but a slight survey of the effects of *exclusive* water treatment in *this* community, we have a fearful comment on the incongruity of dismembering, from the beautiful fabric of an established science, fragments, which, when isolated, appear as meagre and as insignificant as a mole-hill beside a mountain, and as disproportionate to the systematized aggregate of medical science as an ocean's drop to the great mass of the mighty deep.

Why so little is written in opposition to this *exclusive system* of wet-sheetism, I know not, except the impression is, that it will die of itself; but, whether that be so or not, one thing is *certain*, unless the exclusive Hydropathists are more successful in your region than they are here, many of the best constitutions will be ruined and sink into a premature grave, by this mad and senseless practice. Our country is flooded with catch-penny pamphlets of the wonderful cures of water. In all these, we find the most silly statements, in reference to medicines.

"Take *no medicines*," say they;—"you are better without, than with them."

These absurd publications make no distinction between *virulent poisons*, which, for centuries, have been the sheet anchor of old-school physicians, and healthful and life-saving medicines, which the God of nature, in the beneficence of his Providence, has given us, and on which tried experience sees, as by sun-light, the broad seal of Heaven's approval.

I have seen the worst effects follow the exclusive water treatment,—worse even, than the effects of the old drug system itself.



One was a case of fever, which terminated in fatal consumption ; another, a case of fever, terminating in dropsy. Other cases might be mentioned, but these took place under my immediate notice. The first of these, was the case of a stout athletic young man, in the prime of life, with as good a pair of lungs as ever inhaled the breath of heaven. His disease, as a sequel of the wondrous water-cure treatment, was *lingering, painful, and fatal*.

The best treatise, on the application of water, was written about one hundred years ago, by Joseph McKenzie, in his History of Health. The writer, in his article, not only particularizes most scientifically the various ways of applying water, but goes on to show how different temperaments are affected under its application.

Hippocrates is also very minute in his teachings on bathing. It was probably an abuse of the water application, which drew from him the following sentence, "*Every physician ought to know what hurt may be done by unseasonable bathing.*"

But did McKenzie or Hippocrates exclude medicines? No ! by no means. They used water, as a means to retain health, and facilitate the cure of chronic disease ; but they knew too much, to make mere washings a sheet anchor in the healing art.

The only *new* feature of Hydropathy is its *bigoted exclusiveness*. It has been resorted to, in all ages ; but never to the exclusion of medicines, until it found a place in one of the wild attempts at reform, among old-school physicians. Many old-school doctors are turning infidel to their own theory.

And why should they not ? As a general thing, it has proved a splendid failure. Its evils are as marked, as pestilence and famine. I doubt not, that the more conscientious among them weep tears of bitter regret, for having ruined so many constitutions unintentionally, by what they supposed were medicines. But shall one, in his disappointment, turn infidel to nature, and assert that there is virtue in nothing but water ?

Take no medicine, says he. Well, if the curative qualities of remedies were confined to his stock of mineral poisons, he would have good reason for saying so. But such an one is as ignorant of the true science and practice of medicine, as he is of the inhabitants of the other worlds. His error is *exclusiveness*.

The great truths of the reformed practice have, at last, overtaken the Old School, as by storm; and it seems, that, while some are willing to blow up their own ship, and themselves with it, others leap overboard, and seek to protect themselves in the exclusive element of water. After having persecuted the truth, and administered poisons enough to lay waste the most vigorous constitutions, (as witness the pale, wasted, and rheumatic patients, whose vital powers have been scuttled by calomel,) they, on the whole, think, that medicines are of not much use. Thus they conclude, that medical science is a mere humbug, and that a wet sheet is about all that is needed. I do not know of any *exclusive* water doctor, who has come from the Reform School. That School have no need of such a change.

Their theory is good, as is shown by their practice. It may be said, that the ill effects of water, in the other cases, were from ignorant hands. Not so. The cases alluded to were treated by one of the best educated men of the Old School,—a graduate of one of the New York Colleges of medicine, who has travelled all over Europe, to perfect his education. He obtained his teachings in Hydropathy, from under the wing of Priessnitz, and resided, for a long time, at the best water-cure establishments in the east. Besides, he stands now at the head of a very popular Hydropathic establishment.

It is only to disabuse the public mind, that I cite these cases; as, notwithstanding the theory of the physician above referred to, he is, in character, a gentleman of high respectability. But, if there is any thing in nature, which admits of demonstration, it is the happy effects of well-timed and appropriate medicines in the cure of disease. To doubt it, is to doubt naked reality. If, therefore, old-school doctors make shipwreck of their faith, they should do it at the expense of their own senseless theories, and not at the expense of the truthful system of reform.

But, "*Similia similibus curantur*," cries the fascinated Homœopathist. Well, let us look at this theory. Witness its effects. In scarlatina, for instance, an effort is made, with infinitesimal doses of concentrated poison, to establish in the system a like disease. It progresses unchecked, with frightful malignancy. No attention

is paid to the bowels. The blood becomes contaminated by morbid secretions. In other words, the life of all the blood is touched corruptedly, when, at length, the glands of the neck begin to swell, and, ere long, loathsome running sores break out upon the system, from the ears, neck, or other important parts of the body, or fatal dropsy closes the scene of suffering; all of which might have been prevented by a timely attention to the state of the bowels, and judicious evacuations.

Let it be remembered, however, that Homœopathy is, in its *exclusive* sense, the legitimate offspring of old-school doctrine, as is also exclusive wet-sheetism. They are both children of disappointment; and, as to truthfulness and stability, are as unreal as Hume's Ideal World.

But, amidst all these conflicting fragments of hypothetical theories, it is gratifying to behold the steady march of the reformed system of practice, and especially its triumphs at the sick bed. It is so liberal as to receive into its theory all well established truths, which may, from time to time, be developed. In so doing, it loses none of its native dignity or greatness. It is *eclectic*. And it requires not a miraculous gift of prophecy to foresee, that, though, ere long Hydropathy will become sober, and subserve the great interests of reform, yet Homœopathy will lose itself as a mere scintillation of negative prudence. Instead of a system, it will be regarded as a mere speculation, to hold in check the more officious and sanguine in the healing art.

F. T. ALBEE.

Pawtucket, Jan., 23th, 1850.

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL TEXT-BOOKS.

The following remarks, from a private letter received from one of our subscribers, an able physician in Mississippi, merit the consideration of every friend to the Botanic cause,—especially of every practitioner. Our readers are aware, that we have it in contemplation to issue, as soon as practicable, a work on Theory and Practice. We design it to contain from seven to ten hundred



pages, octavo, and, as far as possible, to describe minutely the *pathology* of every disease, as well as all the important *symptoms*. In the *treatment* recommended, we shall spare no pains to be able to present that which is the most rational, and which our own experience, and the experience of others have proved to be the most efficacious. *Editor.*

There is one thing, to which I would be glad to call the attention of our talented men, and that is the publication of suitable text books for our Institutions, such as will supercede the necessity of purchasing Allopathic books,—which I consider paying them to abuse us. I am glad to see the Prospectus of a forthcoming work on Surgery, suited to the Reformed Practice; and I hope soon to see others,—especially some on Obstetrics, and Medical Jurisprudence. Then the Allopathists may abuse us at their own expense.

*Liberty, Miss., Jan., 1850.*

JOHN WEATHERSBEE.

## Selections.

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### CHOLERA CORRESPONDENCE.

A portion of our readers, we presume, will recollect the communication from Prof. Comings, which we published in the 20th No. of the 3d volume of the Journal, and to which reference is made in the following remarks. The statements of the Professor, exciting the displeasure of the city physician at Bangor, gave rise to several newspaper articles, which we here publish in connexion. They present conflicting views, and our readers may judge for themselves where truth lies. *Editor.*

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier:*

I had heard various rumors concerning the cholera, which recently prevailed in this city, that I knew to be false, but intended to take no notice of them, considering the source whence they originated.

But a few days since a gentleman put into my hands, No. 20, Vol.

III, of the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal—Calvin Newton M. D. Editor and Proprietor, Worcester, Mass.,—containing several articles to which I wish briefly to refer. The Editor writes as follows under date of Oct. 16, 1849:

The following letter from Prof. Comings of this city, will be read with interest. The Professor was sent for, not long since, to take charge of cholera patients in the hospital at Bangor, Maine, in the absence of Dr. Isaac Jacobs who had received the trust from the city government.

Extracts from the letter referred to above.

‘DEAR SIR:—I had a fine trip up here and hence had ample chances to see the cholera in all its forms. \* \* \* It is said by those best informed, that there has not been a single recovery from a marked case of cholera in the hands of the Allopathists in this city. Dr. Rich, the oldest and most skilful of this class of physicians, says, that the ‘*Hotcrops*’ (Thomsonians) have been far more successful than all others—and he is willing to give them credit for it. \* \* \* There are only a few cases remaining. These seem to yield to our remedies very easily; for you must know that our success has given us most of the cases of late. I have had charge of the convalescent patients in the hospital since Dr. Jacobs left. They are all doing well. \* \* \*

I remain ever yours,

I. M. COMINGS.

Bangor, Me., 29th Sept., 1849.

As to the foregoing I have to say, that I was appointed superintendent of the Cholera Hospital, by the City Council, and continued to act as such while it was kept open. I was not before aware, that I had any colleague. The Allopathists of this city by no means need any defence at my hands, but I will simply state, though I lay no claims to being one of the ‘best informed,’ that I have the means in my possession, to show that an Allopathist treated at least ten marked cases of cholera which recovered, and I will let the Professor know the names, at any time when he will take the trouble to call upon me.

I am authorized by Dr. Rich to say, that he did not speak to Prof. Comings during his recent visit to this city, and that the remark attributed to him is false.

I never saw Prof. Comings in the hospital at any time, nor heard of his being there more than once, though I spent most of my time there for the first two weeks, and afterwards visited it as often as three or four times a day on an average.

Dr. Jacobs under date of Bangor, Oct., 1849, writes as follows :

Prof. Newton—

Sir : We have had quite a visitation of the cholera in the city of Bangor. \* \* \* During the first week, the Allopathists had the hospital entire, and lost every patient, that entered it. The second week I treated eight patients with the Thomsonian medicines successfully, and continued to prescribe for all the patients brought to the hospital, except three, with the same success, while the hospital was kept open, and during the prevalence of the disease.

It is now generally conceded by all classes, that the Thomsonian medicines were instrumental in saving all that were fortunate enough to survive the attack—except some claim that Homœopathy has been a successful mode in some instances and in slight attacks. It probably has been useful or preferable to the old practice ; but, after all I can learn, I much doubt, whether it has ever relieved or cured one in the collapsed or last stage of the disease.

\* \* \* \* \*

The facts are, that ‘during the first week that the hospital was open, nearly or quite one third of the patients recovered. Of those who entered the hospital the second week, Dr. Jacobs prescribed for seven—three of whom died. For two of the other number stated, I prescribed for some time before their recovery. After the second week he prescribed for three patients upon their entrance, one of whom died. For the other two I prescribed in a few days after they were admitted and before there was any marked improvement in their disease.

During the second week and afterwards, twenty-seven patients were admitted to the hospital, so that there must have been some mistake as to Dr. Jacobs’ prescribing for all, ‘except three,’ who were admitted during that period, as I have intended to state correctly the number for which he did prescribe.

More—much more might be said as to the articles alluded to, but I have no wish for any extended discussion, and would have let the whole affair pass in silence, but that some of the statements referred to are so palpably untrue as positively to demand notice.

S. B. MORISON, City Physician.

Bangor, Nov. 5, 1849.

☞ In the number of the Worcester “Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal” for Oct. 16, there is a communication written by Dr. I. M. Comings, and dated “Bangor, Me., 29th Sept., 1849,” which communication and its editorial preface are not as remarkable for their truthfulness, as for that arrogant self-sufficiency which



is not unfrequently the legitimate offspring of empiricism. And yet "Calvin Newton, M. D.," the editor of the Journal, has placed at its head the following couplet:

"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."

A portion of the untruths contained in Dr. Comings' article were exposed in yesterday's "Whig" by the City Physician, and the following was among the number. Dr. C. wrote:—"It is said by those best informed, that there has not been a single recovery from a marked case of cholera in the hands of the Allopathists in this city." Now the fact is, that "*those best informed*," never made any such statement, and we challenge Dr. Comings to prove to the contrary. Dare he name one of "those best informed?" *Nous verrons.*—*Bangor Mercury.*

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier.*

Noting a communication in the Whig of the 8th inst. on the subject of "Cholera in Bangor" and treatment of the same, I would consider it a privilege to have an opportunity of saying something on the same subject. I shall pass over whatever Prof. Comings may have said, and state some *facts* as near the mark as my memory will serve.

I was employed at the Hospital in the capacity of Nurse, from the commencement of its use for that purpose, until the cholera had about disappeared from the city; saw the different modes of treatment of about all the patients, from ICE to CAYENNE, being there day and night; and I do say, that, if there was *one* "marked case of cholera" cured at the Hospital by an Allopathist, I have yet to learn that fact. Who is the person? I will also assert, that I know of six "*marked cases*" of cholera, pronounced so by Allopathists, that were cured by the Thomsonian system, *two of whom were previously treated by Allopathists, and pronounced by them past cure*, and deserted by them! I find the communication of Dr. Morison worded very cautiously. There is in fact no contradiction between us as yet. I hardly think that Dr. Jacobs meant to state any thing "palpably untrue;" and, if he had been as cautious about his words and dates, &c., as Dr. Morison, I think it would have been pretty near the mark.

I am no Dr. nor the son of a Dr., and have no "pathy" to build up, and have none but the kindest of feelings towards Dr. Morison, whose treatment towards me during our intercourse at the Hospital was the most gentlemanly and kind; and I think that it might be ascertained, that the subject matter of which he complains consists more in misunderstanding and unintentional misrepresenta-

tion, than anything else. As Dr. M. says, *much* might be said in regard to the treatment, and success at the Hospital during the prevalence of the cholera in this city; and, if we knew we were again to be visited with that dreadful scourge, I should think it of the utmost importance to the citizens of this vicinity, to have the *treatment* and *success* in the case of each patient laid open before them, wholly and impartially.

JOHN HARDY.

Bangor, Nov. 9, 1849.

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier.*

In the close of my communication in the Whig of the 13th inst, I stated that I thought it of the highest importance to the public, to have all the facts relating to the Cholera and its treatment, laid open before them; and it has been a matter of astonishment to many, that such silence has been observed on a subject of so much interest.

We see it publicly stated of the cities and towns visited by the destroyer, that so many were attacked and so many survived; that such a per cent. were cured by Allopathists, so many by Homœopathists, &c.; but nothing of that kind, I believe, has been put before the public here; and why is it? There has been every facility for getting at the facts in the case; the superintending Physician had everything provided by the City Government to make his path smooth and clear; in fact, everything called for was given, to the tune of \$5000; and now what has been the benefit, what the result? What have we to strengthen and encourage us to meet another visit of this "pestilence that walketh at noon-day." Have the experiments made in this city satisfied the medical Faculty that Cholera can be cured? If so, which treatment has been the most successful? Which next? What effect had *hot baths and ice water alone*? What hot baths and ice water, added to it Ether and Capsicum? What laudanum and brandy? What cayenne and lobelia, &c., &c.? If the Cholera attacks me or mine, shall I send for an Allopathist, a Homœopathist, a Hot Crop, or no one?

These, Mr. Editor, are important questions, questions that are asked every day, questions that demand answering! And why are they not answered?

Had I been aware that this unaccountable silence would have been observed, I should have taken some minutes of facts while at the hospital; but I saw others attending to that business; and, as they keep back these facts, I will state some things from memory as a dernier resort.

The aggregate number of those brought into the hospital I cannot state, but will set it at 50, more or less; in regard to my pres-



ent purpose, it matters not. Out of this number I know of but 12 that went out alive! 7 of this number no physician of any skill would risk his reputation in stating to be Cholera cases, *in any stage*. 3 of this last number were attended by Allopathists, 2 by Dr. Jacobs, one by no physician, and the 7th run away before the doctors had a chance at him. The remaining 5 were attended by Dr. Jacobs. Now, if the aggregate is correct, this leaves 38 who died. Of this number two were prescribed for, under the Thomsonian system, by one of the nurses, Dr. Jacobs knowing of it; one by Dr. Mills; and one by Dr. Jacobs; leaving 34 who were attended by Allopathists!

From the conclusion arrived at from these figures I hardly think I should put myself to a vast deal of trouble to prove, that I was the sole superintendent. I think I should not object to a colleague or two to share the glory! Of the 12 who went out alive one only went in the first week.

Now, in regard to the above facts, I challenge refutation in every point, except the whole number admitted. This only will affect the number who died, making it either more or less. I had as good an opportunity of getting at these facts as any one at the hospital, and hold myself in readiness to give the names of the patients cured, and also to make good, by proof in abundance, the facts stated above.

It is too late in the day to talk of "taking no notice of rumors concerning the Cholera and its treatment, considering *the source whence they originate*." The majority of the people are getting to believe, that it is possible for a man to judge of facts under his own eye, although he may not be provided with a piece of paper, with a big seal attached. This might have done when the sciences were confined to the priesthood; but now the sciences are being diffused among the people, and that word "*mystery*," with all its Latin accompaniments, is being torn from the science of healing, and the masses are plucking leaves from the "tree of life which is for the healing of the nations," to the terror and dismay of those not holding the interests of humanity paramount to their own sordid interests, conservatism, and bigotry.

JOHN HARDY.

Bangor, Nov. 26, 1849.

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier.*

I have recently seen two or three articles in your paper, over the signature of John Hardy, with regard to the cholera which prevailed in our city. Though some of my friends have strongly urged me to answer them, my own judgment is in opposition to this course, as I think a discussion upon this subject, would not in-



terest your readers. I will here however simply state, that I have the means in my possession to show, that almost every paragraph in the articles alluded to is grossly erroneous, not to use a still stronger term, and I can convince any reasonable individual of this fact, who may feel interest enough in the subject to call at my house.

I might further add, that, soon after the hospital on Oak street was closed, I made a report to the City Council, with regard to the cholera, which report is now on file at the City Clerk's office. At the close of the municipal year, I intend to make another, somewhat more in detail; and, as we shall not probably have another visitation from cholera previous to that time, I cannot conceive of any thing which can be written, that would induce me to take any further notice of this subject at present. S. B. MORISON.

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier :*

A friend has just put into my hands a copy of the Whig of the 5th inst, containing a communication signed S. B. Morison.

I shall not attempt a reply, as there is nothing to reply to, but will merely make a few comments. The Dr. says, though strongly urged by his friends to answer my communications, his own judgment is in opposition to that course, as he thinks a discussion on the subject, would not be interesting to your readers.

Now, with all due deference to the Doctor's judgment, I beg leave to differ from him on this point, feeling assured, that a *good* discussion on this subject would be highly interesting to many of the readers of the Whig; and will merely suggest, that the Dr., instead of having the interest of your readers in his eye, when he penned the above, was thinking of that old and true proverb, 'Discretion is the better part of valor.' If the friends of the Dr. were as well informed of the facts of the case, as he is, they would be slow to advise him to attempt to reply. Hence the issue between them!

He then adds, 'I will here however simply state, that I have the means in my possession to show, that almost every paragraph in the articles alluded to is grossly erroneous, not to use a still stronger term.'

Now I should not call the above a very *simple* statement. I have heard of hard words and soft arguments, but here we have hard words and no argument at all. Is it possible that the Dr. is possessed of egotism sufficient to cause him to think, that such a statement as the above, unaccompanied by either names, figures, or any thing else, will put down the statistical facts given in my two articles? If so, I think he has missed his calculations most widely.

I now call upon Dr. Morison as a man of honor, as he has accused me of stating 'gross errors in almost every paragraph of both articles,' to come out as publicly as he has accused me, and state what these gross errors consist of, that I may have an opportunity, either of making good my statements or of acknowledging my errors. If he does not do this, every candid reader of the Whig will see, not only that he treats me with the grossest injustice, but that 'there is something rotten in the State of Denmark.'

Come Dr., don't skulk behind expediency. After making such a statement, never mind your 'pathy.' Let it go. If it is built upon a rock, discussion will not harm it; if upon the sand, mere assertions cannot save it. Honesty is the best policy.

In regard to the report he made to the City Council, it puts one in mind of Falstaff's army in Flanders. When we get to it, there is nothing of it. How many of those who entered the hospital had cholera? who prescribed for those that lived, or those that died? are questions for yankees to guess at! All the figures or the facts we get at, from that report, are, that '45 entered, and 27 died!!' This account cures 18, when I assert that but twelve went out of that hospital alive.

I again say, I challenge and defy successful refutation of the facts stated in my articles. Facts are stubborn things, and must be met by something more than a wholesale denial, unaccompanied by even the shadow of statistical facts or proof. JOHN HARDY.

*Bangor, Dec. 10.*

*To the Editor of the Whig and Courier:*

MR. EDITOR:—As your City Physician is disposed to call in question the truth of some remarks made by us in a letter to the editor of the Medical Journal of this city, we beg permission to make a brief reply.

We have nothing to say in reference to the appointment of Dr. Jacobs as a colleague to Dr. Morison, by any special vote of the city government. It is enough for us to know, that the Dr. had charge of some patients there, and that he was very successful in the treatment of such cases.

The Editor of the Journal had good reason to infer, if Dr. Jacobs had the care of patients in the Hospital, that he had the sanction of the city, and had their authority. But the special object of this reply is to say, that we had the best of testimony for the truth of the remark of Dr. Rich, that the "Thomsonian practice was the most successful in the treatment of this disease;" and, if the City Physician will call on the Editor of the Courier, he shall have the name of our informant. It is true, we did not have a personal in-



terview with Dr. Rich, nor did we state, that the Dr. made the remark to us; but that he said this to more than one individual we have no doubt, for it is a true remark: and the Dr. is not so prejudiced and bigoted as to refuse credit and honor where they are due; and we have too high an estimation of his integrity, and too much knowledge of his character from our early youth, to believe he will deny the above remark. If he does, we can only say, that we have been deceived by others in whom we have been accustomed to place implicit confidence.

As it regards the relative success of the different practices in the Cholera, it would be much more satisfactory, if we could get hold of some correct statistics of the cures effected by each of the physicians in Bangor.

The great difficulty with the Botanic practice has been, that we could not obtain *official* accounts of our treatment. We have cases of cures enough to satisfy the most incredulous: but the public Institutions have been so long in the hands of Allopathists that we can get nothing before the public in an *official* form. This has been done in but one instance, and that during the prevalence of the Cholera in Cincinnati the past summer. It was there clearly shown, that out of 528 cases there were only 5 deaths, less than 5 per cent.: while the mortality under the Allopathic treatment has been in almost every city from 50 to 86 per cent.

We have every reason to believe, that, if a true statement of the cases and cures wholly under the Botanic treatment in Bangor could be made out, like success would be found to have attended this treatment there. We hope some means will be taken to arrive at the truth in this matter.

We notice the Editor of the Mercury has taxed us with great credulity in making a statement of prognostic symptoms in Cholera. We only mentioned the *facts* in relation to these symptoms, as noticed by Dr. Mills, and this we did, that they might be verified or corroborated by others; for every circumstance connected with this remarkable disease ought to be known, as it may be, that these symptoms or the "*prescience*" which has been exhibited by Dr. Mills, may lead to important discoveries in the treatment of Cholera.

Dr. Mills has no need of our aid in vindicating his claims to veracity or his "*medical prescience*." He is fully competent to show this to the editor of the Mercury, as well as to make predictions of the *fate* of others, who may have other *symptoms* than those of the Cholera.

I. M. COMINGS.

Worcester, Mass., Nov. 12, 1849.

FRIEND BARTLETT:—I noticed, in the "Whig and Courier," sev-



eral communications over the signature of S. B. Morison, in regard to the management of the cholera in the city of Bangor, the first of which appeared sometime since, charging certain Thomsonians (whose statements he pretended to quote) with having misrepresented the state of things in the Cholera Hospital, as it regarded the cures effected by the different modes of treatment of the disease, &c.; and one in the above-named paper of the 5th inst., which says :—“ I have recently seen two or three articles in your paper, over the signature of John Hardy, with regard to the cholera which prevailed in our city. Though some of my friends have strongly urged me to answer them, my own judgment is in opposition to this course, as I think a discussion upon this subject would not interest your readers. I will here, however, simply state, that I have the means in my possession to show, that almost every paragraph in the articles alluded to is grossly erroneous, not to use a still stronger term ; and I can convince any reasonable individual of this fact, who may feel interested enough in the subject to call at my house.” I should like to be informed something of the man who comes forward and *publicly* charges men and physicians—with whom we have long been well acquainted, and never before heard their reputation for truth questioned—with false statements and falsehoods, having, as he says, the means in his possession to prove what he asserts, and yet withholding the same from the public, before whom he has wantonly made such charges. Now I cannot view Morison otherwise than as holding the following soliloquy :—Who is this John Hardy ? I am astonished ! To be sure, he was in the Hospital, as he says, and I saw him daily ; but I had no idea of his being such a sharp fellow as to come out with facts and challenge me to name the person cured in said Hospital by the Allopathists ! I well know his statements are true ; but I hoped, by connecting the Cholera Hospital and the Poor House together, [no other physician attended at that house.] I could make such statements as I pleased, and get some credit for the Allopathists, who I well knew could not get any from the Hospital alone, as there is scarcely a person in the city who does not know that the *Hotcrops* cured all who were cured in that house ; and as I have assumed to become the *cat's-paw* for the physicians, and got my own *claws* so *singed* that I cannot injure others, I will crawl into my *shell*, and, if possible, induce some of my friends to call and see for themselves, and, probably, by assuming an air of pretended importance, I may get their influence to help me out of my present unenviable situation. It is altogether too bad that I, who was last spring elected by the City Council to superintend the city affairs, without a “*colleague*,” should be choked down by this impudent John Hardy, who relies on *FACTS* entirely, and is not afraid to assert them

—I, whose *judgment* dictates better things than to attempt to prove my assertions, when I have sufficient means in my possession!

Now, sir, we in the country have a wish to know the truth in regard to the best remedies for the cholera, regardless of the different *pathies*; but we cannot reasonably expect justice in the case from a man of Morison's feelings and interest, as indicated by his writings; and, as J. Hardy says in a communication in the same paper of the 10th inst., "if Morison's cause is good, he has nothing to fear from investigation and facts"; and, if he will bear all that Hardy has said, and not bring forward evidence, (which he says he has in his possession,) we must reckon him as very *small potatoes*, and not more than *one* in a hill at that; and we must conclude, that the City Council will next season know better how to provide for the necessities of the unfortunate poor, dependent on their generosity, than to appoint him again as their physician. It is much to be regretted, that Morison, holding, as he does, the station of City Physician, should take such a course, and disregard the public good, as he undoubtedly does; and, as no other physician in the city seems to be disturbed, we must conclude that they are satisfied, that, if they should reply to Morison, the *ammunition* would be worth more than the *game*.

A COUNTRYMAN.

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## REMARKABLE MEDICAL PRESCIENCE.

Isaac M. Comings, formerly of this city, but now of Worcester, (Mass.,) where he practices as a Botanic physician, was in this city during a portion of the time that the cholera prevailed here, and here, he for the first time saw a cholera patient. In the "New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal," for Nov. 1, published at Worcester, there is a communication from Dr. Comings, under the head of "*Important Discovery*," in which Dr. Preserved B. Mills, of this city, is highly lauded for his prescience—a prescience which has travelled all the way to Worcester and back to Bangor, before, we venture to say, one of our citizens became aware of his marvellous endowment. We copy from the Journal a portion of Dr. Comings' remarks touching the matter, which we are sure cannot fail to interest our readers. If they are not conclusive, as to the prescience of Dr. Mills, they are, as to the credulity of Dr. Comings—who says:—

During our late visit to Bangor, we were assured by Dr. Mills, of



that city, that he could predict an attack of cholera, two or three days before the patient himself observed any symptoms. This was done by noticing a peculiar *anxious* look of the eyes, the color of the skin, and a livid appearance about the orbits.

We were led to place more confidence in this assertion of Dr. Mills, from the fact, that he is a very close observer, and his duties as an Alderman of the city, required him to look after the distressed, while this epidemic prevailed there, and he had an opportunity to witness more cases than any other individual in the community.

We were very particular in making inquiries of the doctor, on this subject, and learned that he had foretold, two or three days before, that *such* and *such* individuals, whom he had noticed as having this *peculiar* look, would be attacked; and his predictions invariably proved true,—the patients themselves, not having the least intimations, that they had been thus doomed, or having the least fear of an attack.

He informs us, that it is difficult to describe the appearance; but it is never to be mistaken, if once noticed. He says *an anxious look* is the best definition he can give; and *a cholera countenance* must be *seen* to be recognized.

We present this subject as an important discovery; as we have never seen the matter mentioned before; yet it was verified, during the prevalence of this disease in Bangor, frequently, and by various individuals.—*Bangor Mercury*.

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## INTERIOR OF THE EARTH.

A fact of general interest has been proved by the boring of the Artesian wells in the suburbs of Paris, namely, as we go towards the centre of the earth, the temperature increases at the rate of about one degree for every fifty feet. That the whole interior portion of the earth, or at least a great portion of it, is an igneous ocean of melted rock, agitated by violent winds, though I dare not affirm it, is still rendered highly probable by the phenomena of volcanoes. The facts connected with their eruption have been ascertained and placed beyond a doubt. How then are they to be accounted for? The theory prevalent some years since, that they are caused by the combustion of immense coal beds, is perfectly puerile, and entirely abandoned. All the coal in the world would never afford fuel



enough for a single capital exhibition of Vesuvius. We must look higher than this, and I have little doubt, that the whole rests on the action of electric and galvanic principles which are constantly in operation in the earth.

We know that, when certain metals are brought together, powerful electric action is developed, and a light is produced, superior even in effulgence to the splendor of the sun. Now, if a small arrangement produces such results, what may we not expect from the combination of those immense beds of metals to be found in the earth? Here we may have the key to all the grand phenomena of volcanic action. An illustration, on a small scale, may be seen in an instrument called the theo-electrical battery, made of zinc, bismuth, and antimony, packed in a box and varnished. In this, heat is evolved below, while the top is cold; and here we have the very cause of the volcano, when in the interior a fiery ocean is heaving its surges, while its peak is capped with everlasting snows.—*Prof. Silliman.*

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## PHENOMENA OF THE BRAIN.

One of the most inconceivable things in the nature of the brain is, that the organ of sensation should itself be insensible. To cut the brain gives no pain; yet in the brain alone resides the power of feeling pain in any other part of the body. If the nerve which leads from it to the injured part be divided, it becomes instantly unconscious of suffering. It is only by communication with the brain, that any kind of sensation is produced; yet the organ itself is insensible. But there is a circumstance more wonderful still. The brain itself may be removed, may be cut away down to the *corpus callosum*, without destroying life. The animal lives and performs all its functions, which are necessary to simple vitality, but no longer has a mind. It cannot think or feel. It requires that the food should be pushed into its stomach. Once there, it is digested, and the animal will even thrive and grow fat. We infer, therefore, that the part of the brain, the convolutions, is simply intended for the exercise of the intellectual faculties, whether of the low degree called instinct, or exalted kind bestowed on man, the gift of reason.

*Wagan on the Quality of the Mind.*

From the Ploughman.

## COLD AND HOT ROOMS.

Never heat your rooms to excess. They might be better too cold, than too warm. The sudden change, from an over-heated room to the open air, produces more colds and consumptions, than sleeping all night in the park, with the gate open. Care should be taken not to let the iron work of a stove get red hot; for, in that case, it absorbs the oxygen from the atmosphere, and vitiates the air of a room, rendering it unfit for the support of human life.

## ON THE USE OF ETHEREAL SOLUTION OF GUN-COTTON IN THE CURE OF ERECTILE TUMORS WITHOUT OPERATION.

BY DANIEL BRAINARD, M. D.,

Prof. of Surgery in Rush Medical College, Chicago.

This adhesive liquid, which was ushered into the profession with great recommendations, as a substitute for needles in cases of hare lip, and for adhesive plaster in wounds, seems to have failed in fulfilling the expectations which were excited of its usefulness, and to have become rather an article of the *toilette*, and a substitute for court plaster, than a useful addition to our surgical armory. Struck, however, in the experiments with it, with the contractile power it possesses, I determined to test its application to the surface of any erectile tumor which might present itself for treatment.

During the last winter a case of *nævus*, of the size of a very large strawberry, situated on the anterior fontanelle of a young infant, was presented for operation. I immediately covered it with a solution of gun-cotton, and, although it was much elevated above the surface, had the satisfaction of seeing it brought, by the contractile power of the liquid in drying, to a level with the sound skin. It was allowed to remain for several weeks, and then a fresh application made; and at the present time scarcely any trace of the *nævus* remains, although but two applications have been made.

The next case was that of a young child, with a *nævus* three-fourths of an inch in length, and half an inch in breadth, situated beneath the right eye. This at birth was scarcely perceptible; but in six months had acquired the size mentioned, and was rapidly increasing. In order to avoid the irritation resulting from its proximity to the eye, the application was made during the sleep of the infant, and was required to be renewed twice a week, on account of its becoming loosened. After two months use, the *nævus* is scarcely perceptible, and the use of the solution has been for some time discontinued.

It is not improbable, that, by preventing the necessity of resorting to operations in such cases, this liquid may find a use more important than any to which it has before been applied.—*North Western Med. Jour.*

## TO DR. GILMAN KIMBALL, PRACTISING PHYSICIAN, LOWELL HOSPITAL.

SIR :—In the report which you have made to the committee of the Lowell Hospital, you have presented to the city of Lowell, and to the scientific world, the following facts. 1st. That, of the 1607 cases of all diseases received into the Hospital during the nine years of its existence, 816 were of the typhoid fever. 2d. That, of the 1607 cases of all diseases, there were 77 deaths, giving 20 and 67 seventy sevenths per cent; more than 1 out of 20. 3d. That, during four months of the whole time, has the typhoid fever been absent from the Hospital. To these facts in the light of science, and the genius and spirit of the age, I now recall your attention,—that of the citizens of Lowell, and the whole medical and scientific world. My reasons are, there are, under your practice, that of the old-school system, too many cases of the typhoid fever, and too many deaths—my motives, truth, benevolence, and humanity. Let us appeal to facts, which, Junius says, are stubborn things, which are sustained by their own light, and shine by their own splendor. There are two systems,—the physo-medical and the anti-physo-medical.

### THE CONTRAST.

#### *Physo-Med.*

Dr. Narden, who deserted the old depleting, blistering, poison system, and embraced the physo-medical system, according to the report of a committee of citizens, appointed 1838, in Charleston, S. C. saved, during that fearful epidemic, 20 out of 21, who were subjects of the epidemic, while the regular physicians lost 4 out of 5, or 15 out of 20. Dr. John Millen, in 1839, in the epidemic which prevailed in Augusta, Ga., saved 22 out of 23, while the old unimproved and unimprovable Faculty lost 4 out of 5, that is, 15 out of 20.

#### *Anti-Physo-Med.*

Dr. Kimball, in a report which he has officially made to the committee of the Lowell Hospital, in 1849, reports that he has lost of 1607 patients, of all diseases, 20 and 67 seventy sevenths per cent, or more than one out of twenty. He is practising in a healthy climate, on all diseases, and loses more than, under the improved system, ought to die in an epidemic, in any Southern climate. Again—his patients are the young and vigorous, those who are the best able to combat with disease, while, in the former case, we have the poor, the aged, the slave—all ages and conditions.



Drs. Narden and Millen prosecuted the warming, perspiratory, invigorating principle, making use of vegetable medicines alone, while Dr. Kimball prosecuted, pertinaciously, it is rationally presumed, the cold, depleting, blistering, poisoning, mineral system, and we see the result.

Now let us take two parallel isolated cases, that we may the better judge.

Dr. Wythe reports the case of a delicate young girl who became chilled at a critical point, was seized with stupor and difficulty of speaking or moving. She was bled and blistered; four hours after she was again bled; she became speechless; and in eighteen hours she died in delirium and convulsions.

Dr. John Millen reports the case of a young female under the same circumstances. He gave warming and exhilarating medicines, threw her into a profuse perspiration, and continued the warming nourishing process. She perfectly recovered.

Now, allowing for all the difference in constitution, and turning to the simple process, science and common sense anticipate with absolute certainty the result. That of Dr. Wythe was calculated to destroy, and that of Dr. Millen to save the patient. There is one important fact which stares the whole medical and scientific world in the face; and that is, that a certain course of medical treatment will change a bilious or a typhus into a typhoid, and we have some reason to believe that this is the reason why the typhoid fever—under Dr. Kimball—is emphatically a hospital disease.

In an Infirmary, No. 40, Salem street, Boston, established by Dr. Samuel Thomson, who pursued the physio-medical principle, and received patients of all kinds, the deaths were but one to 650.

You stand in no enviable light. The typhoid cases and number of deaths under your hands are truly appalling. You are evidently behind the science and benevolence of the age. If you do not see it, the world will.

JAMES S. OLCOTT.

## NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF BRAN.

M. Millon has communicated to the Academy of Sciences, the result of some interesting investigations of his, concerning the ligneous matter of wheat, whence it would appear that bran, is a very nutritive substance. Though bran doubtless contains from five to six per cent. more ligneous substance than flour, it presents more nitrogenous matter, twice as much fatty matter, and moreover two distinct aromatic principles, one of which possesses the fragrance of honey; and these are both wanting in flour. M. Millon, therefore, thinks that bran and meal ought to be ground over again and mixed with the pure flour, and he has found, by repeated experiments, that this mixture yields a superior kind of bread. *London Lancet.*

## Editorial.

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### TRACHEITIS.

DEFINITION.—By Cullen this disease was termed *cynanche trachealis*. The usual vernacular name is *croup*. It consists essentially in an inflammation of the *trachea* or *wind-pipe*.

ANATOMY OF THE PARTS CONCERNED.—The trachea is a tube, commencing opposite the fifth or sixth cervical vertebra, and descending, anterior to the œsophagus, first in the middle line, and then inclining to the right, on account of the position of the aorta, which presses it on the left. After entering the thorax, the trachea descends obliquely backwards, and, opposite the third dorsal vertebra, divides into the right and left *bronchi*. It is composed, mainly, of eighteen or twenty fibro-cartilages, connected together by a membrane of *yellow elastic fibrous tissue*, and lined by *mucous membrane*. More definitely, it may be said to consist of *fibro-cartilaginous rings*, *fibrous membrane*, *mucous membrane*, *sub-mucous cellular tissue*, *longitudinal elastic fibres*, *muscular fibres*, and *glands*. The *fibro-cartilaginous rings* extend about two thirds of the distance around the cylinder; and, at the posterior part, *fibrous membrane* completes the tube. The *mucous membrane* is the internal lining of the tube. The *sub-mucous cellular tissue* connects the mucous membrane with the tissue beneath it. The *longitudinal elastic fibres* are situated beneath the mucous membrane on the posterior part of the trachea. The *muscular fibres* form a thin layer, and extend transversely between the extremities of the cartilages. The tracheal *glands* are small flattened ovoid bodies, situated in great number between the fibrous and muscular layers of the membranous portion of the trachea, and likewise, between the two layers of elastic fibrous tissue connecting the rings. They pour their secretion upon the mucous membrane.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—By some, tracheitis has been di-

vided into four kinds,—the membranous, the inflammatory, the spasmodic, and the catarrhal. This division is founded on certain differences of symptoms, and of post-mortem appearances. A thorough acquaintance with the pathology of the disease, however, establishes the essential identity of all the varieties. The disease, in its commencement, is strictly one of inflammation. If it comes on suddenly, like other cases of acute inflammation, but does not specially involve the nervous system, it constitutes *inflammatory croup*. As, however, in some constitutions, almost any organic affection will create disordered nervous action; so, in this disease, the inflammation may produce a spasmodic constriction of the muscles of the throat, and hence the dominant symptoms are those of *spasm*. But, sometimes croup comes on comparatively gradually, like a common cold or bronchitis. The inflammation of the mucous membrane gives rise to a considerable amount of catarrhal secretion; and hence the disease is called *catarrhal croup*. In all these cases, if the progress of the inflammation is not seasonably arrested, the unavoidable result is the formation of an adventitious tubular membrane in the trachea, which, by its increase, precludes the ingress of air to the lungs, so that the patient dies, at length, of suffocation, or apnœa. This is called *membranous croup*; but, in reality, it is nothing more than an advanced condition of the pathological phenomena of the disease.

By imperfect pathologists, this concrete exudation has been regarded as essentially identical with the liquor sanguinis or coagulable lymph secreted from serous and cellular tissues, in the progress of healing. There is, however, between the two, a marked and radical difference. The membrane of croup is more friable, more albuminous, and less fibrous, than what is created in the reparative process,—as, for instance, in the case of false membranes formed upon the pleura, pericardium, or peritoneum. Besides, in the former case, the membrane is not *plastic*;—it does not become organized, nor connect itself, by blood-vessels, with the subjacent tissue. On the contrary, it always seems measurably separated, and, occasionally, is wholly detached, and afterwards vomited up. In the one case, the process is wholly pathological:—in the other, it is strictly physiological.



The formation of this adventitious tissue is often very rapid. Even after it has been entirely removed, (as, fortunately, it sometimes though rarely is,) it has been known to be renewed in the short space of six or seven hours.

The existence of this false membrane in tracheitis, is not always limited to the trachea. It sometimes extends upwards to the rima glottidis, epiglottis, vocal chords, and even the parts above the uvula, so as to be distinctly visible, on looking into the mouth. Again, in fatal cases, it is not unfrequently found to descend through the various ramifications of the bronchi.

The peculiarity of this exudation from the mucous surface is not limited to the trachea and the neighboring parts. Similar films occasionally form on the mucous surfaces of the intestines and the uterus; and, under the influence of appropriate means, are thrown off. Probably, the variation from the usual products of mucous inflammation is due to the fact, that the disease reaches beneath the mucous tissue to the sub-mucous glands and connecting cellular tissue. The product of this phlegmonous inflammation transudes through the mucous membrane, and modifies the usual morbid secretion of that membrane.

Tracheitis is almost exclusively a disease of early life. Comparatively few cases of it occur, however, during the first year of the infant's existence; but, during the second, it is the most common. Possibly, this may be connected somewhat with the change of the child's nourishment, undergone in being weaned. From the second year, the frequency of the disease gradually diminishes, till the age of puberty, after which it rarely appears. Occasionally, however, it has occurred as late as the age of majority, and even in advanced life. Washington is said to have died of it, at the age of nearly sixty eight; and we have known and successfully treated one case, in a gentleman of about fifty five. The sub-mucous cellular tissue is more abundant in early life, than afterwards; and this is probably the reason for the greater frequency of croup with children, than with adults.

The course of tracheitis is one of rapidity and brevity. If fatal, it may terminate in twenty four hours; and it seldom continues beyond the fifth or sixth day. If it results in recovery, convalescence always commences in a few days.

Recovery from this disease is often rapid, but sometimes lingering. In the latter case, the patient may be affected, for a considerable time, with cough, hoarseness, and even aphonia. Like tonsillitis, it is very apt to recur. Especially is it easily brought back, while relics of the former attack remain. When a relapse does take place, soon after essential relief or an apparent recovery has been gained, it is generally more severe and more dangerous.

**SYMPTOMS.**—The disease usually shows itself, as such, first in the night. The development is sometimes extremely sudden. The parent, perhaps, is aroused from sleep, by the peculiar and distinctive cough of his child,—a cough which, when once recognized, is never mistaken. It is a brassy sound, as though made by coughing through a brazen trumpet. The expiration is ringing, and the inspiration is loud and crowing. At other times, the disease comes on somewhat gradually. The child is thought, at first, to have simply a common cold. He has a hoarseness, a sore throat, and a catarrh. He does not rest quietly, and has the general symptoms of fever. After a day or two, the symptoms are found to have undergone a change. Those peculiar to croup begin to show themselves. There is the peculiar cough, expiration, and inspiration already described. There is dyspnœa, and hoarseness or aphonia, together with an increase of inflammatory fever, thirst, a flushed face, a hot skin, and a frequent and hard pulse. If the disease is not here arrested, the obstruction to the passage of air increases, the blood ceases to be duly arterialized, the skin grows dusky, the extremities become cold, and the pulse beats feebly and irregularly. To keep the cylinder of the false membrane in the trachea open, the head is thrown backward, the nostrils dilate and are in perpetual motion, the pupils often expand, and the face becomes livid and sometimes bloated. As the system generally sinks, the cough often becomes less loud and clanging, the bottoms of the feet sometimes turn black and hard, drowsiness supervenes, the breathing becomes an interrupted gasping, and death closes the scene. Some patients, however, die more suddenly, without giving time for any marked exhibition of these latter symptoms.

**PROGNOSIS.**—This is to be determined from the symptoms of the patient collectively considered. If he is sufficiently early placed

under proper treatment, his chance of recovery is good. But, after the symptoms generally become severe, especially after there is reason to apprehend the existence of false membrane, the opportunity for hope is small. In some cases, this membrane has been dissolved, and thrown up. In rare instances, it has been detached, and discharged by the mouth entire. But, in general, when it is decided that the albuminous product is considerable, especially when auscultation shows that it has passed extensively into the bronchial tubes, a fatal result is almost or quite certain.

**TREATMENT.**—From the nature of tracheitis, it will readily be seen, that the principle to be observed, in attempting a cure, is to divert the blood from the trachea, allay the inflammation, and remove whatever adventitious albuminous deposit there may be. Towards accomplishing this object, active purgatives have a favorable effect. Indeed, those which, like *podophyllum peltatum*, are somewhat irritating to the alimentary canal, have the advantage of acting as counter-irritants, thereby calling the blood away from the part affected. Soaking the feet and hands in warm water, by relaxing the blood-vessels of the extremities, also invites the blood from the inflamed air passages. Drafts, applied to the feet and hands, also have a similar effect, in diverting the blood. A warm water and more especially a vapor bath, by opening the cutaneous pores, relieves the inflammation. Simple steam, applied to the throat, and also inhaled, is favorable. More especially is the steam of *humulus lupulus* [hops] and acetic acid [vinegar], used in the same way. Skunk, hen, turkey, goose, or other relaxing oils are of service, applied externally and internally. They soften the parts, and assist in detaching the viscid exudation.

But the most important means to be employed are stimulating expectorants and emetics. At the head of these, perhaps, should be ranked *sanguinaria canadensis*. Others of great value are *lobelia inflata*, *eupatorium perfoliatum*, *arum triphyllum*, and *ictodes foetida*. We are in the habit of compounding these several articles in about equal proportions. We then add a little of *ulmus fulva* for its demulcent property, and about the same proportion of vegetable composition for its additional stimulating effect. By superadding an alkali, as the bicarbonate of soda, the power of the



whole is increased. Of these we make a strong decoction, and liberally sweeten the whole with molasses. Of this liquid, we give from two to four tea-spoonfuls, at a time, according to the severity of the case. If the disease be threatening, repeated vomiting should be produced; as this aids greatly in removing the viscid collection in the trachea. Continued nausea and prostration, too, depress the action of the heart, and thus protect the capillary vessels of the inflamed part against further congestion. Indeed, nausea and vomiting seem to be the grand means on which reliance is to be placed, for the removal of this disease.

As adjuvants or substitutes for the agents above named, other articles are recommended. Internally, acetic acid, [vinegar], cochlearia armoracia [horse radish], and sinapis nigra [mustard], are valuable. If the pyrexia and thirst are considerable, cold water, as a drink, and ordinary fever preparations should be employed. Externally, a cold wet cloth, applied to the throat, covered with dry flannel, and often renewed, is of great service. Indeed, it is among the more efficient of external applications; and, in the early stage of croup, will do very much towards removing the disease. A stimulating liniment is also good.

Still other articles may be advantageously and successfully employed; but, whatever they may be, they should be adapted to fulfil some or all of the indications above named.



## A GOOD MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Our own views accord essentially with the tenor of the following remarks. We will just say, however, by way of personal apology, that we have sometimes published extracts from Water-cure and other periodicals, when, in our judgment, they were *essentially* correct, simply because our correspondents did not furnish us with original matter, and we absolutely had not time to prepare it ourselves.

Heretofore we have had to pay more than a hundred dollars, annually, for the privilege of doing what we have done, as editor. The reason has been, that a portion of the *professed* friends of our cause have not been willing to patronize an *instructive* medical Journal. They have wanted one filled only with blackguard and nonsense. Hence, every article, containing valuable truth, and requiring thought to appreciate it, has been condemned as *too professional*. Even many practitioners, understanding merely the common routine of practice and too indolent to inform themselves further, have seriously felt the same objection, though they have been less ready to avow it.

We are thankful however, that, *at length*, and we may say *so soon*, (for the effecting of such a change is not an ephemeral affair,) our cause is found rapidly completing its transition state. As far as we are acquainted, scarcely an individual now, thinking to sustain himself as a practitioner, will venture to deny the importance of a professional education. The consequence is, that the Journal begins to be appreciated, and better sustained. Since the commencement of the present volume, we have already received an encouraging number of new subscribers, and we expect many more.

Animated by this condition of things, and stimulating a little our *organ of hope*, we have resolved, if our mental and physical energies will endure it, to make, at whatever sacrifice, still greater efforts, to render the Journal a professional publication of eminent value. We are gratified with the numerous letters of commendation which we have recently received, the most of which have contained more or less of the *needful*; and we now look to our friends, with confidence, that we shall be sustained in our arduous and thus far self-denying labors.

We will only add, that we are often urged to publish more reports of cases; and the only, and to our mind very adequate reason why we do not is, *we have them not to publish*. To those who express this objection, therefore, we would just *hint*, that there is a particular in which they are quite as responsible for the deficiency as ourselves. But to the remarks.

“PROF. C. NEWTON:—Enclosed you will find one dollar for the

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continuation of my Journal. I consider it of more value than any medical Journal that we have in the Reformed Practice ; and I hope, that you may have a liberal patronage,—such an one as may enable you to do justice to Medical Reform. We certainly can accomplish more in this way, than in any other. If we will only put our shoulders unitedly to the wheels of this victorious chariot, we shall soon be able to triumph over the horrid system of bloodshed and poisoning.

“There is one thing which I hope to see. It is, that our Journals be filled with good Botanic reports and cures, and not quite so much Hydropathic blowing and quackery. It is true, that cold water is a very good remedial agent. I esteem it very much, and use it to cleanse and tone up the bodies of my patients ; but I think it running the matter into the ground, when we say, that it is the only remedial agent, and use it for all complaints, as our Hydropathic friends do.

“I am of the opinion, that we can undoubtedly find enough cases, treated upon purely Physiological principles, to fill our Journals, and we may safely leave them to blow on their own credit.

“You may rest assured, that I entertain the warmest feelings for your present and future prosperity. Yours in haste,

A. L. WHITEHALL, M. D.

*Attica, Fountain Co., Indiana.”*

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## MEDICAL INQUIRIES.

The following is a part of a private letter addressed to us by a highly respectable and talented physician in one of the New England States. He was educated, and, for a series of years, practiced on the Allopathic plan ; but accidentally meeting with our paper the first year of its publication, then under the name of “The Eclectic,” he readily received with candor and interest the Botanic views, so far as he learnt and understood them.



In answer to his inquiries we would say, Dr. Morse's Dynamic Pills and Plaster are professedly the same as the late Dr. Sherwood's. Each box of pills contains about 180, or enough to supply a patient three months or more. We do not know precisely the formula by which they are made; and we are not aware, that they can be obtained (, except when received on commission), at a less price than the one named. We have had no experience of their utility in the treatment of cancers.

As to the pretensions of Dr. G., we suppose them to be, like those of other quacks, only a convenient means of imposing on the credulity of the common people. We have not the slightest fellowship for that nor any other form of charlatanry.

"DR. NEWTON:—*Dear Sir.*—There is something in the account of the Dynamic Pills and Bituminous Plaster, which seems to *promise* considerable more than has, heretofore, been accomplished. On several accounts, I feel an interest in the matter. Seeing some of my dear relatives, and several others who have fallen under my care, apparently going down with tubercular consumption, I would spare no pains possible to acquire the knowledge and means of arresting this formidable disease.

"Permit me to inquire of you, can the formula of the pills and plaster be obtained? How many pills does a \$7,00 box contain? and how long would the pills and plaster last in ordinary cases? I find that allusion is made, in Dr. Sherwood's work, to chloride of gold as an ingredient in pills for tubercula; but no formula is given. Can the pills and plaster be obtained for a less price than that mentioned in the Journal?

"Have you any experience in the Dynamic Pills and Bituminous Plaster, in cancerous affections? Would they be likely to avail in the treatment of cancers?

"A. D. G. is located about six miles from me. He professes to give a correct diagnosis of any disease, by feeling the pulse and observing the countenance only. Is this a principle taught in the Reformed Medical Colleges? I know of no educated Botanic or Eclectic physicians in this vicinity, who were originally educated as such. I know of some, and I have no doubt, there are many in the country, who are modifying their practice on account of the

increase of Botanic principles. With some, this may be from philanthropic, and, with others, from selfish motives.

“Please pardon me for my many questions, answers to which will render me under increasing obligations to you.

“With sentiments of high regard, I am yours truly, ———

N.—, *Jan. 9th, 1850.*”

### NEW ENGLAND THOMSONIAN DEPOT.

We are pleased to learn, as appears by an advertisement inserted in the present number of the Journal, that our old friend, D. L. Hale, has resumed the business of dealing in Botanic medicines. We make no invidious comparisons. We formerly traded almost exclusively with Mr. H. at Nos. 79 and 81, Blackstone Street; but, after he relinquished his interest in that establishment, we found other dealers equally honorable and upright. We take pleasure in announcing our friend's resumption of his former business, because we believe him worthy of his share of patronage, and because the increase of dealers in Botanic medicines, like the increase of Botanic physicians, is proof of the extending popularity of the Botanic cause. Our friend and his associates have our best wishes for their success. There are now, in the city of Boston, at least, three extensive and worthy Botanic shops;—one kept by Dr. Wm. Johnson, rear of No. 49, Hanover St.; another by Messrs. B. O. & G. C. Wilson, No. 18, Central St.; and a third by Messrs. Messer, Banker, and Co., No. 7, Long Wharf. How much better for physicians and families to patronize such medicine stores, than those from which flow forth little more than streams of fatal poison.

### MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CLINIC.

During the approaching Lecture Term of the Worcester Medical Institution, a Medical and Surgical Clinic will be held every Saturday, from 2 to 4 o'clock, P. M. Patients attending, on these occasions, will be examined and prescribed for gratuitously, by the Faculty.

C. NEWTON, *President.*

## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

## INCREASE OF ITS FACULTY.

We take pleasure in announcing to the friends of reform in New England, that we have permanently secured the services of Profs. E. H. Stockwell and Joseph Brown of the Physo-Medical College of Ohio. We are the more gratified with this arrangement, as it secures us the co-operation of old and experienced Professors. Dr. Brown has been Professor of Chemistry, in our sister Institution, for six years, where his services were always highly appreciated by the Classes. A change occurring in that Institution in consequence of the death of the lamented Dr. Hill, Dr. Brown was removed to the chair of Materia Medica, in which department he will be engaged in the Worcester Medical Institution. It is a sufficient eulogy on the character of Dr. Brown to say, that, whether in the chair of Chemistry, or that of Materia Medica, for which his chemical knowledge particularly qualifies him, he is still the same acceptable teacher.

With reference to Prof. Stockwell, we beg leave to use the language employed by a friend in a private communication. "Prof. Stockwell possesses rare merit of being an accurate and minute Anatomist, but not a prosy one. With a tact peculiarly his own, he manages to mingle *dulce cum utile*; and thus secures, to his Classes, minute information, without exhausting their patience. Skilful in his dissections, and clear in his teachings, he brings before his pupils, in the most successful manner, his deeply interesting and indispensable topics, and firmly impresses them upon the minds of the students. A teacher embodying all these *rare* qualifications can not but be an acquisition to any Medical School."

With a full Faculty, composed of men whose literary as well as professional training is of the highest order, we feel no hesitancy in asking the patronage of an enlightened public, confident that the expectations of those thus favoring us will be fully realized.

We will only add, we shall have all necessary *material* for dissection, we have secured the services of an accurate and careful Demonstrator; and, by the additional fee of \$5, students will receive the best of advantages for private dissections, and a minute acquaintance with the principles of Anatomy and Surgery.



NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., APRIL 1, 1850.

NO. 4

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Communications.

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS,

TO THE FIFTH COURSE OF LECTURES IN THE WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION,  
DELIVERED MARCH 7th, 1850.

BY PROF. E. H. STOCKWELL.

PRELIMINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

PROF. E. H. STOCKWELL,

*Dear Sir,*—The undersigned were appointed a Committee to request for publication in the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, a copy of your praise-worthy Address delivered before the Class at the commencement of the present College Term,

Yours with high respect and esteem,

G. MERRICK NICHOLS, }  
G. W. KING, } *Committee.*  
S. P. HUBBARD, }

Worcester, March 5th, 1850.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Address requested for publication in your polite note of the 8th is at your disposal, provided you will not say hard things against that freedom of thought which a western life naturally favors.

I am most respectfully yours,

E. H. STOCKWELL.

G. MERRICK NICHOLS, }  
G. W. KING, } Committee.  
S. P. HUBBARD, }

Worcester, March 10, 1850.

*Gentlemen,*

Could one have been present and interpreted the multitudinous expressions that appeared and disappeared, in rapid succession, upon the countenance of Omnipotence on the morn of creative action, he would have been able to gain an accurate idea of every thing, and being, that ever have existed, or ever will exist, with their powers and properties, their natures and uses. He would have seen the great object of the Artificer, pervading every feature of the great countenance of Wisdom and Love, to have been the creation of beings, like unto himself. This he would have read to have been the central idea of the divine mind, the end of creative skill. All else was subservient to this; the mere tools and machinery in the hands of Infinity, for the creation and eternal life of Intelligences,—of *Man* and of *Woman*.

What an object! what a work! how masterly planned, and how perfectly executed! what an economy, and what an energy! The thoughts of Infinity on the morn of creation were the outstretched earth, the expanded heavens, and the unfolded universe! He has faithfully recorded them in his works for the study of man. Here he has made his plenary Revelations; here he has written his eternal Scriptures; and here published, to the Intelligences of Ages, his expressed Will and Testament. Here we find a full Image, a perfect embodiment of the great Positive Mind;—the first and only complete description of his character, his actions, his intentions, and his will.

The pervading idea in all this display of power is the creation of Beings, of boundless capabilities, like unto himself, differing only in degree of powers. Every work in the vast compass of things and beings looks forward, in its final use, to the good of man. From the nethermost stratum of earth to the last being in the an-

imal scale, they all converge, in final uses, into him. He is the axis of their motions; the goal of their race; the ultimate object of their consecutive labors. To him they bring the fruits of their labor, as to their leige Lord.

Though every thing prior to man images him,—he, in return, miniatures all that precedes him. Every law and function, possessed by the mineral, the vegetable, and the animal kingdoms, are epitomized in man's body; also, the elementary principles of these kingdoms. If we do not find *all* the elements of the chemist in the human body, we do *many* of them. And the results of analysis favor the belief, that the number of remote elements may be, by the achievements of science, greatly reduced, and be comprised by what are found in the human organization.

The career of science foreshadows this opinion. If not *true*, the human body epitomizes the *laws* of the before mentioned kingdoms, their *functions* and *conditions* of exercise. The great characteristics of the mineral kingdom, composition and decomposition, are here found in all their beauty, variety, and complication. The features of the vegetable world are here all displayed with increased attractions, and adorned with garments of the rarest tints and costliest workmanship. They are found at the very centers of organic movements; and are selection, absorption, capillary circulation, aeration, assimilation, nutrition, secretion, organic arrangement, and reproduction. The next sphere of existences, the animals, their specific characteristics are clearly and largely possessed by the human body, and in their most perfect form. These are motion and sensation, muscular contraction and relaxation. These are here found producing the most graceful, useful, and wonderful actions, that are found in the whole animal world. Papillary impressibility, ganglionic changes, and nerve trunk conductability, are here portrayed in peerless ability. Could we enter the chemical laboratory, the vegetative arena, and the animal theatre of the human organization, with sufficient intelligence, we should be struck with the amazing skill, and almost new power of all these matchless workmen of God's vast field of labor.

In this sense and light, we see wherein the human form epitomizes the three kingdoms below it. And, when we take a view of



man's mental and spiritual capabilities, these infant powers of Infinity, we catch the idea, that man is the image of his Creator ; and that, in both senses, he is the Epitome of the two worlds,—the point where materiality and spirituality meet. By this, we are able to see the significance and mental grandeur of the expression, "Know Thyself." It also permits us to form an approximate idea of the importance of the science of man. Should I be so fortunate, as to impress your minds with the vital importance of this great Focus of Knowledge ; this infallible oracle of truth, the very bed and fountain of science, I shall feel as though I had cancelled my obligations to you as a Teacher of those twin sister sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, the great Treasury of what is essential to health and long life, to intelligence and happiness, the embodied wisdom and love of God to humanity. Language is too tame, too insignificant, to express the value of these sciences. We have wandered so far from this source of truth, pursued other ways for wisdom so long, that they can now hardly get a respectful hearing, even from the very ministers of these great departments of knowledge, and thence life.

A thorough knowledge of any department of nature will reveal all the laws and conditions essential to its fullest development. In all scientific investigations, the object sought is believed to be possessed by the department investigated. The chemist, for the extension of his knowledge, renews and enlarges his investigations in the field of chemistry. A knowledge of collateral subjects aids in the investigation of a given subject, in proportion as the laws and conditions of the former obtain in the latter. Still, every department of Nature is complete, and has within itself *all* that is necessary for a thorough acquaintance with itself. This is a great practical truth, and should beget confidence in the principles of every work of Nature, and a spirit of untiring research for the discovery of said principles, and the conditions of their action.

Every substance and being of Nature is endowed with certain powers and properties, which require, for their free manifestations, fit conditions or circumstances. This obtains universally, and should be always borne in mind. From the fact, that Man and Woman possess mental and accountable powers, it has been sup-

posed that they were above or destitute of established laws which cause every movement,—that they had nothing in common with prior creations,—and that their constitutions were incapable of philosophic inquiry.

A human Being, as well as others, is by nature endowed with certain powers. Those powers, for their development, depend upon internal principles, having given conditions. Those powers in man and woman are of three kinds,—the physical, the mental, and the spiritual. They are intimately associated, and designed never to be separated in this life. Though their sphere of action is different, yet they are mutual aids to each other, and the welfare of one, is inseparably connected with that of the others. They each spring from germs, by culture capable of boundless growth, especially the mental and spiritual powers. The physical are limited in term of life and degree of development.

Woman, like man, is a compages of physical, mental, and spiritual powers, with their conditions of action. Elementally and intrinsically they are alike, but unlike in texture and quality of abilities.

It becomes necessary for the philosophic Instructor, before he institutes a system of education for man, to know his affirmative capabilities; then he can easily and philosophically institute the proper *means* for his development. He requires a system of education that is based upon his natural, God-endowed powers, and it must be upon *all* of them. A basis of parts and misdirected attributes will not succeed.

*Action* and *Rest* are laws of each power. Given means are indispensable for these states. All education has its foundations here. And that system which preserves an *equality* of development in *all* the capabilities, that secures in proper quantity and quality, the most compatible circumstances, and that balances action and rest, is one founded in Nature, and will secure to the individual *all* that can be desired, or that God intended. Education can never give to man a single elementary power; it can only *develope* it. Every system should recognize the truth, that by Nature all are alike in individual abilities,—that every one possesses the germs of every greatness, and that there is *no* limit to the mental and spirit-



ual powers, and that there is room and capacity for eternal progress and enlargement. God gives us the latent abilities, while education brings them into *life*, animates and developes them. Nature is accountable for the power, and we for the *use* of it. We are all that nature intended, in elementary ability, but only deficient in the *use* of it. The misfortunes of this life lie in the *non-* and *irregular* development and use of our primitive capacities.

Only when all our faculties are balanced in their development are we capable of fulfilling the end of our creation,—of obtaining health, intelligence, and happiness. An equal and simultaneous development of all the faculties fits us for the perception and enjoyment of all the blessings of earth.

Though this looks like truth, yet what are the powers with which we are possessed, and what are the conditions of action and rest? Are they obtainable, and can the means be applied? What are the physical, what are the mental, and what are the spiritual powers? Of the physical nature we can say that it can move itself at will—that it can preserve its own integrity, for a given period,—that it can execute what Intelligence dictates—and that it can perpetuate itself. Of the means necessary for their capabilities we can say, that they are the constant presence of pure air; the daily, vigorous exercise of every voluntary muscle of the body; purity of person; freedom from all compression; the erect position; equal distribution of apparel; and uniformity of food and drink, with a sufficient restriction on their quantity to prevent their presence in the stomach being ever known by the nervous sense. It has been long known, that our mental faculties are capable of education, and also to an unknown extent. The schools of all countries are based on this truth. So general is it, that a man who lives at this day without putting it in practice, is considered a dolt or sluggard. No man is excused for being ignorant. Ignorance cannot seek protection behind mental depravity, mental taint, mental disorganization. We all have mental powers, and expect them to be developed.

But nothing comparatively is known about our physical abilities, farther than that we have them. We labor under the impression, that we are but the fragments, the dilapidated remains of our primitive



formation. We feel as though we had received, through a long line of ancestral malformation, decrepitude, and disease, the inherent seeds of pain, of stunted growth, and of early death, woven with the very filaments of our constitutions, and beyond the power of science and art to eradicate. The world does not know that our organizations are the result of the most reliable and positive laws of nature, and that they are capable of human discovery, comprehension, and full obedience. We have not been taught, that our physical system is capable of an education analagous to our mental nature. No! *far* otherwise. But an easier proposition I do not wish for demonstration. We have physical powers that we may understand. Those powers demand certain conditions, and they are within our reach and faithful application.

We have nothing to do with the *induing* of our powers, but with their developement and maintenance. We are only responsible for the *conditions* of their action, and their *use*. Here lies *our* responsibility. Nature is always ready to share, and foremost in responsibility. She has left but a small amount for us.

The leading essential means that our physical forces require for their natural action are the *erect position*; the presence of *pure* atmosphere all the time for respiration; the *purification* of the entire surface, and all its openings, with cold water daily; the *vigorous daily exercise* of all the muscles of voluntary action; freedom from *all compression* by dress; apparel that will be *equal* in its protection to the body, and of *that* construction which facilitates the freest motions; a quantity of food and drink, at *stated* periods, that shall not be *perceived* by the sensitive nerves of the stomach; *that* control of the feelings, which enlightened reason and virtue demand, and a *proper* distribution of time into daily periods of labor, amusement, and rest.

These means furnish to the powers and forces of the body, *that* which they require for vigorous long life, for the prevention of disease, and for the maintenance of health. These means are the fruit of the "Tree of knowledge." The non-observance of these means, with others, constitutes the Forbidden Fruit, the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Here we have the sure conditions for primitive constitutions,—for those bodies of symmetry, of grace and of dignity of our first parents.

The only department of the science of Man that has been understood, and the knowledge made the basis of rational action, is the intellectual. Yet here has been a great want of fundamental principles. The great and central truth of this nature is, that all rational beings, at birth, have the germs of all those attributes, which are necessary for the acquisition, retention, and presentation of all knowledge that comes within the sphere of human abilities; that, at birth, all intelligences stand upon the same platform intellectually, (except it may be that the germinal mental powers differ in degree of impressibility,) that all the powers are latent, germinal, but possessed with the ability of animation and boundless growth. At the outset, all possess the elements of every ability. The infant mind is a perfect blank, destitute of the most trivial fact, idea, or thought; a being who requires for his greatest good, a knowledge of many things, yet destitute of all, but so constituted, that, as its wants increase, the mind expands and ultimately becomes the receptacle of whatever is essential to be obtained for life; so constituted, that every fact or thought obtained, retained, or expressed, gives room and ability for more. By use, the mental powers become developed to an unknown extent. The more the mind acquires and produces, the more it can—the greater are its powers. To the casual observer it appears, and thousands believe, that nature is partial in the bestowment of her intellectual favors; that all men of eminence are the favored recipients of her gifts; natural patricians; great men by divine favor. But such a belief is ruinous and wickedly false. It makes nature a mere creature of fancy, capricious as the wind, and partial as likes and dislikes can produce. More than this, it makes a vast portion of the human family believe, that they were born with the mark of ignorance in their foreheads, put there by the branding iron of nature; and that a favored few are the immediate subjects of heaven's most benignant smiles, the elected treasures of wisdom. How many a youth has had every energetic action crushed to death by this pernicious belief, while he has led a life of ignorance, unrequited toil, and regret. This vestige of despotism has slain its thousands; it has been a destructive mildeu, a withering simoom, that has subdued the nobler efforts, hopes, and aspirations of vast numbers, who would otherwise have

been supporters and defenders of the spirit of our noble institutions—of truth and of humanity. No longer should such a fatal error be inculcated in the cradles of liberty—our schools. A nation of freemen requires and deserves all the favors of truth, and none of those of error. Neither man nor nature, can implant, in the mind of a single person, the least amount of knowledge. All they can do is to *present* it. The reception and possession must be performed by the one informed. Every being is as much compelled to inform himself, if he is informed, as he is to eat, if he is nourished.

All knowledge comes by individual application, and the facility of acquisition depends entirely upon the *use* of the various faculties. It never comes when one is asleep or idle. It never comes without being sought, and that diligently. It is truly passive, always ready to be acquired, but *never* acting for it. Not a thought ever possessed by the loftiest mind, which was not obtained by application! But make this great truth your own in *act*, any of you, and your names can no sooner die, than you can destroy that feeling of the student, which cherishes the memories of great men. You then possess the keys to the fountains of truth.

It is all important that this nature should be thoroughly and equally developed; for the welfare of the other natures depends upon what they receive from this. It becomes the guide and director of itself and the others. Infinite Wisdom has constituted us *progressive* beings, and this progress corresponds with our accumulation of knowledge and its faithful application in life. This wisdom lies in things and beings. Notwithstanding it is so essential to our development, we are by nature destitute of all of it, though profusely scattered around and in us; but we are possessed with the ability to possess it. Hence the importance of mental culture; for the mind only can acquire and apply what life requires. It becomes by degrees a lamp of transcendant brilliancy; it speedily brushes away the dense ignorance of youth, scatters the deep and black clouds of our early night, and throws a halo of light around, and beams of light into every object of perception.

The value of this nature renders it necessary for us to know its individual powers, and the means for their action. Whatever



directly aids in the obtainment, retention, and imparting of knowledge belongs to the intellect. We are able to see that we possess the ability to perceive material things and beings and their properties and qualities; the effects of immaterial forces; also abilities to treasure up what we perceive and then call it up for use whenever we wish; an ability to arrange effects and facts pertaining to a given subject, in such a manner as to enable the mind to behold the cause of those effects; and, finally, an ability to acquire and even construct a vehicle for knowledge between man and man, and then use it. These powers spring from certain acknowledged attributes. They are perception, memory, contrast, comparison, analogy, judgment, imagination, invention, construction, reason, will, speech, and language.

These capabilities are the Delphian Oracles, the Hebrew Prophets, the Priests of God to every immortal being. In the days of ignorance and superstition, they were taken from men and bestowed upon imaginary personages—upon the conceptions of extravagant fancy.

But those days of darkness are rapidly giving way to those of philosophy, of humanity, and of justice. We behold upon the beams of the new rising sun, that God is the author, Nature the Treasury, and Man the Recipient. It emphatically tells us, that all Nature and its Artificer are co-workers for man's welfare, for man's development, and for man's happiness; also, that every one has the noble endowed powers of greatness and goodness, equally distributed; that their means of action are freely scattered around all; and all that is required of man is to faithfully use those powers.

The progress of science often disturbs established views and beliefs, and by many it is looked upon with the dread of an invasion; but, to the honest and faithful student of truth, the career of science and the downfall of error are hailed with joy and gladness. In investigation lies the security of all that is true and beautiful. Every explorer of science, every cultivator of philosophy, should be hailed, so far as he goes, as a benefactor to the race and a child of God. The human mind will never be satisfied with any field of labor till its truths are evolved. Then it is satisfied and rests secure. There is an everlasting affinity between mind and demon-

stration. The union is indissoluble. But, between speculation and wild imaginings, and mind, there is no permanent tie. The ingenuity of their authors may captivate for a time, yet the mind soon becomes dissatisfied, and leaves them and seeks for demonstration. It will break every connection, even the strong bands of faith, strike out into the realm of free inquiry and seek for the truth. The mind was made for the exploration of philosophy. It is her food and life; and nothing but death can stop her strugglings after it. Hence the safety of free inquiry, the value of investigation, and the need of its encouragement and protection.

Our physical and mental abilities have been presented, and their means of action. But they do not comprise all our powers. There are those yet which throw a charm and a beauty upon the human character which infinitely transcend all prior possessions. They clothe us with garments of heavenly texture, of celestial tint, and divine worth. They are to man and woman what gems are to a bracelet and what diamonds are to a crown.

May we be permitted to inquire what they are? Though they play a part in all the transactions of life, yet, from the fact that they have been and are associated with much that is incomprehensible, supernatural, and superstitious, their real character, and importance, their natures and uses, their developement and means of action, have been but dimly seen, and man has been prevented from enjoying the sweet blessings of their active possession. This veil is removable. It has but a temporary life; and the spiritual nature may be shorn of its artificial inconsistencies and presented in its native inherent loveliness, splendor, and sacredness.

It should be borne in mind, that *every* department of nature courts investigation, solicits inquiry, and rewards exploration; while it indirectly punishes apathy, credulity, and bigotry. The spiritual capabilities require specification, presentation of their means of development, and their distinction from mental powers.

Those faculties that enable a person to *acquire, retain, and impart* knowledge are mental. These should not be confounded with spiritual. Those qualities which render a person *lovely* are spiritual. They constitute a *good* character. They are those which enable a person to lead a *true* life. The mental powers are the

illuminating abilities. They reveal the ways of law and order ; also the ways of error and disorder ; while the spiritual powers prompt and induce us to choose and follow the paths of wisdom and love, and avoid those by-roads of ignorance and evil. They keep the conscience calm and happy ; the hands free and unspotted, and the tongue pure and elevated. Again, what are these gems of happiness, these pearls of the soul, these golden remains and elements of Paradise ? Humanity, in her apparent irremedial destitution, longs for them as the thirsting herd does for the cool draughts of the murmuring stream. She has strayed so long and so far from them, that, when now awakened to a consciousness of her state, she weeps from a sense of her great loss ; she kneels and extends her million arms for the return of these primeval powers. Yes, she raises a universal cry to the uncovered heavens, for the repossession of the “ Tree of Life,” for the means of peace, of happiness, and of love.

Those causes that made the Adamic age the hope and labor of every succeeding one, were planted by Infinity, in the constitutions of man and woman. They are to be *fully* found there and nowhere else. They constitute a part of them, and are as indestructible as the whole race. They have all been carefully transmitted to the present age, and will be to all future ones. They were planted there originally, are there now, and it does not lie in the power of man, however much he transgresses them, to wholly destroy them. To strike them from his organization is a human impossibility. Not one can he annihilate—forever are they all with him, whatever he does. He may let them lie dormant, misuse them, and irregularly develope them, but to destroy them is an impossibility. They may lie, like the precious ore of the mountain, for ages unobserved, yet capable of being discovered and brought to light, and still possessing all the beauties of their first creation.

A greater error never insinuated itself into the mind of man : a more mischievous and destructive belief never coiled itself around man than that which teaches that he has lost the *nobler* powers with which his Creator first endowed him. It virtually tells him that he *cannot* meet the expectations of his creation. Such infidel doctrines should never be spoken again. Teach man positive knowl-



edge—let negative alone. Let him see and feel the nobleness and dignity of his powers. Win him away from error by the splendor of truth. Cast into oblivion falsities as fast as found, and uncover the smiling faces of wisdom and love.

Man has now the germinal abilities that he had, when he came from the plastic hand of his Creator. He, now as ever, has the power to *live* what he *knows*. His *perfection* can and should correspond with his *knowledge*, and it never can go *beyond* it.

Man was, is, and ever will be, born into the world destitute of *all* knowledge; but endowed with abilities, which, by culture, can amass that which is necessary for health, for intelligence, and for happiness. But this ability is a *progressive* one. Hence as man leaves the cradle and approaches the condition that enables him to make his transit into the realms of mental and spiritual life, he will, if true to himself, dissipate ignorance and acquire wisdom, prune himself of evils and gather the true and the good.

To know the way is one thing, and to pursue it quite another thing. A mind may see with great clearness, and yet it is possible for it to be as heartless as evil itself. Intellect is the guide, the lamp which reveals the way, while the spiritual powers follow the life-giving light. This appears to the world the more difficult part; but such is not the fact. The ways of law and order are easy, attractive, and pleasant; while those of error and transgression are hard, repulsive, and painful. But what are the spiritual powers, the remains of ancient Eden? They are virtue, integrity, fidelity, magnanimity, benevolence, philanthropy, mercy, gentleness, forgiveness, tolerance, kindness, sympathy, affection, and love; a society of powers that will wreath the brow of man with a crown of fadeless beauty and undying worth. They constitute the central attractions of the human character; the united excellences of heavenly progressions.

The mind, if permitted to act, is an eagle-eyed sentinel—an hundred-eyed Argus, which plays over the vast fields of thought with the fleetness of an angel. It rapidly and ably reveals the great highways of human greatness, and goodness, with mathematical precision. Here the spiritual powers step in, and display the great-

ness of their character, and the theatre of their action. Here they unfold their celestial worth and peerless excellence.

For the developement and protection of this nature, certain conditions are of vital importance. First, every undignified and fallacious memory should be instantly forgotten. Secondly, every thought, feeling, and desire should receive the favorable recognition and smile of reason and virtue. Thirdly, every expression, word, and act, should bear upon their foreheads the marks of dignity, of innocence, of sincerity, and of usefulness.

The object and aim of education should be to develop in due proportion the entire triune powers. Not one should be overlooked. To inform the student what those powers are, their use, the means for their freest action, and the best manner of applying them,—here lies the secret of prosperity, of greatness, and of renown. Here lie the causes that can make our countrymen great men, and our nation the glory of the world.

To me these views are all important. They give a grand significance to life; they elevate and enoble man; they center in woman every noble quality, clothe her with fadeless investments, and throw around her a divine beauty; they lend a charm to nature, and lead us to approach her as the immediate fountain of knowledge to man; and they finally beget, towards Him whose acts are philosophy, the most sincere and rational worship.

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### CASE OF CONSUMPTION, TREATED WITH MORPHINE.

That victim of consumption! Methinks, I see her now, just as she appeared, when, years ago, she first came to us, in all her youthful loveliness. But do I call her a victim of consumption? Let me recall those words; for consumption, cruel and relentless as it is, could never, unassisted, in so short a period, have made such fearful havoc with earth's choicest treasure. No. It was *ignorance*,—ignorance alone, to which our loved one fell a victim. Ruthlessly he laid his rash and inexperienced hand upon the delicate intricate machinery of that "harp of thousand strings;" and lo! the ruinous results! Youth and beauty, moral worth and in-

tellectual power fall alike before the march of the destroyer. Even now, though years have passed away, the recollection of that heart-rending scene, comes over the mind with such thrilling power, that every fibre of the soul vibrates with intensest agony. Is it wonderful, then, that the cheek should burn with indignation, against the author of all this misery? And is it strange that we should seek to put down a system which authorizes such tampering with human life?—which deals out such wholesale destruction to human happiness? Strange it may seem to some, and foolish to others; but for one, so long as memory's tablet presents, to my mental eye, the image of that small, delicate, but perfectly symmetrical form,—that countenance of alabaster whiteness,—that high, expansive brow,—those dark, brilliant eyes, lighted with intellectual fire, until they sparkled with more than mortal lustre,—those glossy raven tresses, wandering luxuriantly over that slender neck, and those falling shoulders;—yes; so long as this picture of Adaline D.— calls up the recollections of the cruel manner in which she was sacrificed, so long shall I declare war against a system of medicine, that deals out deadly poisons for life-giving medicines,—draws off the fluid and cripples the energies of nature, in order to restore health and vigor to the wasted debilitated frame.

Adaline D.— became an inmate of our home; and, very soon, she found a place in our hearts also. But there came another who loved her too; and, ere long, he led her, a willing bride, to the hymeneal altar. Then he took a tenement very near our own, so that we saw her every day. And happy days they were—too happy to last. One year passed by, and Adaline was a mother. O, then, her dark eye flashed with a brightness which made us tremble; while, ever and anon, there came a dry hacking cough, that struck, like a death knell, upon affection's ear.

Sometimes too, she spake of profuse perspiration at night; and, at length, she yielded to the entreaties of anxious friends, and called a physician. He spoke encouragingly, and our hopes for a time revived. But, alas! that time was of short duration. When she had been under his care for a few weeks, I entered her room one day, and inquired after her health. She burst into tears, and exclaimed "O dear! I do believe the remedy is worse than the dis-



ease!" And truly, I thought so too; for the effects of calomel were present, in all their loathsomeness and horror. Slowly but surely, the energies of the system had been prostrated by that "one remedy," (?) of which, he who prescribed it in this case, said, "If I must be deprived, I will throw my bags into some brook, and dig potatoes for a living." Would that he had done so. Society would have been no loser, but humanity would have been a mighty gainer.

About this time, there came to our village two young dandies, who added to their names the high-sounding title of M.D. They professed to belong to the French School of medicine, and talked loudly about the ill effects of drastic purgatives, torturing blisters, cruel caustics, salivation, &c. According to their theory, the only sure remedy for disease is rest. In addition to perfect repose—absolute abandonment of all care and anxiety,—they prescribed a powerful anodyne, expecting that, while the patient was taking a pleasant nap, nature would set herself lustily to work, to remove the disease, and, in some mysterious way, manage to regain her wasted strength. Of course, they did not intend that nature should share in the dose, and go to sleep also. No; nature was to be wide awake, and vigorously engaged in curing herself, notwithstanding the leaden weight that hung with crippling power, upon her every energy.

Under the care of these partners in ignorance, quackery, and deception, was that dear one placed; and I do believe, that a prospect of escape, from the excruciating tortures of mercury and tartar emetic, was one great inducement to this course of action; for, said she, "I can endure this no longer. I must die as I am. I can *but* die, if they do not cure me." They immediately went to work, to cure up the sore mouth, and the hideous ulcers, produced by tartar emetic ointment. This part of their work was indeed a laudable one; but, for medicine, they gave one little white powder night and morning, and it did make her feel so much better, that she told us, with tears of joy, she was getting well. And thus that poor deluded woman thought, for a long time; even when the death-rose was blooming on her cheek, and the fire of hectic burning in every nerve, consuming her vitals, and drinking

up her very life-blood. "A pleasant delusion," her physician said it was, and perhaps it was ; but, alas ! the awaking was terrible ! When she did awake,—when she came to realize the nature and operation of the remedy she was using, she made one vigorous effort to break the chains that morphine had thrown around her. Even in the very arms of death, when every hope of recovery had vanished, it was fearful to witness her struggles to escape from that cruel thralldom. For, said she, "If I cannot recover, let me, at least, while I do live, enjoy the light of reason unclouded. If I must die, I would not go to my God, with my faculties benumbed by the stupifying influence of a narcotic." But vain were all her efforts,—fruitless every struggle. "O," said she, "I do feel so bad, when the time for taking my morphine has passed by, I do think, if the whole world were mine, I would give it all, for one of those little white powders. And those powders she continued to take, as long as she lived. Amid all her trials, she was supported by the consolations of religion. But our hopes for her were founded on her consistent life, and christian example while in health, rather than the triumphant joys of a death-bed, over which opium held despotic sway.

And now, dear reader, if you have listened to the recital of this sad tale of suffering and woe, I ask your aid in crushing this monstrous hydra, that has been the death of hundreds, as good and beautiful, as the one of whom I write. If your hearts are moved to pity, will you not lend your influence to rescue others, as fair and highly gifted as she, from a doom so deplorable ? O, I beseech you, by all that is pure and sacred, deny us not the weight of your example, in bringing about this great medical reform. Do not say, "I am but one, and can do nothing." You can do much. You can resolve, for yourself, to use only those simple, remedial agents, which act in harmony with the laws of life. You can persuade your neighbor to do the same ; and this task will not be hard, if he is witness to your own success. Let every one who is friendly to the cause do this, and the work will soon be accomplished, great and important as it is. Do this, and the mighty opposing influence that rises before us, like some towering Andes, dwindles to a narrow point.

CHARIS.

## CALOMEL—ITS EFFECTS.

Mr. R. was a respectable, simple-minded, hard-working man. His wife also, was industrious, prudent, and economical. Well was it for them, that they were so; for they had had a large number of children, five of whom, were already in the grave, and the rest almost constantly sick. Yet, by the strictest frugality, and constant persevering industry, they were enabled to supply themselves with the comforts of life, to pay their doctor's bills, which, by the way, were no small item in their bill of expense. The poor man felt that his fate was a hard one. He did not murmur,—but he thought that the ways of Providence were dark and mysterious. Nor is it wonderful, that his heart was deeply affected, when the hand of the spoiler was laid upon those “lovely buds of paradise,” that were just opening in all their gracefulness and beauty, around the domestic altar. No one, but those who have known, by sad experience, the cares and anxieties of a parent's heart, can fully enter into his feelings, when those precious plants, which he had cherished so tenderly, and so earnestly endeavored to rear for immortality, one by one withered and vanished from the earth;—and this, notwithstanding the careful nursing, unceasing anxiety and watchfulness, on the part of all concerned, notwithstanding the constant attendance of the family physician, and the costly medicine which was given without stint or question. Hitherto, calomel had been the grand remedy. Let the disease be what it might, whether it was worms or croup, whooping-cough or scarlatina, all yielded to the power of this one active agent. But unhappily the constitution yielded also, and life and disease succumbed together.

Such had been the uniform result in former days; but now another child is taken down. Alarm and anxiety sit upon every brow; for Mr. R's mother had recently paid them a visit, and she, arrant heretic as she was, had ventured, with an imprudence and boldness altogether unaccountable, to insinuate that the doctor was not infallible, and that calomel was poison. Furthermore, she advised, that, in case they were sick again, the doctor should be



admonished not to administer a medicine which had so often proved fatal. This advice they resolved to follow ; but who is to carry it into effect ? The father is away from home, the most of the time ; and, if he is not, he is not learned enough to attempt to dispute with the doctor upon the correctness of his theory, or the beneficial effects of his practical skill. No, he cannot do it. And his wife, poor timid woman ! why, she does not dare to open her mouth in the great man's presence, if he chances to have a frown upon his brow. How, then, can she venture upon the fearful experiment of hinting, that he is in the wrong, or can be mistaken in anything ? No, indeed. She would not do it, for any price. Annihilation would be the certain result ! But something must be done, and that immediately. The child was getting worse. Finally, mother R. was sent for. She came, and the doctor was called in. She asked his opinion of the child, and what course he thought best to pursue. He replied, that the disease was a severe attack of brain fever, and that he should give an active dose of calomel. " Not so, Sir," she replied ; " we shall not consent to have any more calomel given in our family. We have seen enough of its cruel work, to convince us, that it is not only useless in removing disease, but positively dangerous." She told him plainly and decidedly, that, if he would be her medical adviser any longer, he must give something else.

The man of science opened his eyes in utter astonishment at the woman's temerity. Then, assuming a look of bravado, he thought to "*put her down.*" But it would not do. She stood firm in her own moral strength, and met his frown with the calm determined air of one who has discovered truth, and is resolved, at all hazards, to defend it. He soon saw with whom he had to do, and yielded to her wishes, with the best grace imaginable. The frown instantly vanished, and, in its place, came smiles, and bows, and pleasant words. He even asked the old lady's advice respecting the best method of treating the disease. After making a prescription that gave perfect satisfaction, he left, assuring them the child would soon be better. But day after day passed by, and the little sufferer was evidently getting worse. The anxious friends were alarmed, and, with tearful eyes and quivering lips, inquired if he was not

treading in the footsteps of those who had gone before him. To this, the only response was, "O no, there is no danger."

The old lady watched, with ceaseless vigilance, every dose that was given, in order to be sure that calomel formed no part of its composition. But, after all, the wily doctor contrived in some way to disguise the deadly mineral, so that no one was aware of its presence, until it began to exhibit its usual horrid and greivous effect. Upon this, the whole family awoke, as from a dream, and their indignation knew no bounds. Even then, however, they did not dare to express openly to the world the feelings which swelled their almost bursting hearts, and found vent in whispers at their own fireside. Such unbounded power did Allopathy exert over the public mind, that he who would have ventured at that time to come forth and denounce it publicly, must have had a degree of moral courage, which rarely falls to the lot of mortal man. The result would have been an indignant rebuke from every quarter. Can we wonder, then, that the poor shoemaker quailed before the storm of aristocratic wrath, which would have ruined his business, and effectually crippled every effort to gain an honorable subsistence?

The old lady alone spoke out openly and fearlessly. She insisted on a change of physicians; and another medical gentleman was called in, but only in counsel. The services of Dr. R. were still retained, and he was allowed to reap the reward of his iniquity, in the shape of a heavy bill, although every member of the family regarded him as a murderer and an impostor. The child still grew worse. Not suspecting the presence of mercury, cold drinks had been freely given; and now that innocent child presented a spectacle over which an angel might have wept (if such a thing could be). Even, methinks, his satanic majesty himself, must have been satisfied with the amount of misery inflicted, and have given to his authorized and persevering agent, the approving plaudit he so richly deserved.

The physician whose advise they sought was of the same medical faith, and dealt out calomel with an unsparing hand. He, however, had once possessed a kind and generous heart; and, though his soul had become fearfully indurated by the hardening process of the Allopathic Schools, still one little spark of humanity remain-

ed, to cast a feeble flickering light upon the gloomy shadows which overspread his darkened soul. Yes, though his moral senses were sadly perverted, and he could trifle with human woe, to a most fearful extent, still one little sympathetic chord was left, and long had it lain untouched, until that infant's sufferings awakened its vibrations, and sent a thrill of agonizing emotion through all those callous heartstrings. Well might that strong man's cheek turn pale, and well might his voice tremble, as he looked upon that dying infant. Well might the starting tear-drop dim his eye, as he turned to that weeping mother, and whispered sadly, "There is no hope." Truly, there was no hope; for the deadly gangrene filled his mouth, and his little cheeks were falling in pieces. O, it was horrible! No one could look upon him, hear his piteous moans, and inhale the terrible effluvia which arose from the sloughing flesh, without an involuntary shudder. Tar was kept constantly burning in the room, and no one could stand near him more than two minutes at a time, even when a napkin, wet with vinegar or cologne, was applied closely to the nostrils. For more than a week, the family were obliged to go to a neighbor's, to take their meals, and the watchers—but let me forbear. I have given enough of this tale of horror, to show to your readers, what calomel can do for them. Does it not also show, what Allopathy is willing to do, to obtain a patient, and a fee!

I have thought it one of the encouraging signs of the times, that physicians now think it necessary to plead an "extreme case," in order to justify themselves in giving calomel. They "do not approve of a free use of it, but the case is an extreme one, and nothing else will do." So said one of the great ones, who was called the other day to see a man who had a slight cold, but was able to work. His case, was one of the "extreme ones," and so he took calomel, was confined to the house some weeks, had an "extreme" sore mouth, while the Dr. clasped his hands for joy, and felt "extremely" happy.

JUSTITIA.



## THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE.

PROF. NEWTON :—

DEAR SIR,—I venture to pen a few remarks for the columns of the Journal, if they may be considered worthy of the attention of readers.

Every existence is the sequence of some active principle. The wild and apparently irregular developments in nature, commonly attributed to chance, or to the action of some intricate law, defying all comprehensive analysis, are occasioned by some simple law, which, however shrouded in uncertainty at present, will, at some future time, be reduced to palpable plainness. Lightning, in all its forms, was once looked on with terror, as a manifest token of the wrath of an enraged deity. Now, the principles of electric science being understood, the law of its manifestation is easily governed by men. It has been thus in every department of science,—that of medicine not excepted.

Those diseases, once regarded as a manifestation of the displeasure of the gods, science has brought under the control of the humblest servants of nature. And this has been accomplished, as the result of the mind's having acquired to itself just notions of the principles, which, from the nature of things, are the cause of their development.

The law governing disease being elucidated, the proper mode of cure is thereby illustrated.

The above has been penned as introductory to the suggestion of a few principles. There are three divisions of material existencies, —divisions founded on modifying circumstances simply, the existences themselves being the same.

The first division comprises substances in a crude form, composing the inert or inorganic part of matter.

The second division comprises substances composing the organic vegetable part of matter.

The third division comprises substances composing the organic animal part of matter.

'The primitive elements' entering into the composition of each division of the material world are, in some instances, distinct; in others, not so. Oxygen, for instance, mingles with the inorganic part of the world, forming various earths, by uniting with their metallic bases.

It enters largely into the composition, and is, in fact, the life of vegetable growth. It is, also, one of the main supports of animal life.

There are other elements, like oxygen, mingling in each division of matter. Other elements may enter into two departments, as the vegetable and inorganic. Other elements, as HYGRARGYRUM, ARSENICUM, &c., &c., are confined wholly to one division—the inorganic.

There is to be seen, in this arrangement, much beauty, harmony, and usefulness:—each element being useful in its natural sphere, but often only injurious when acting out of its sphere. This suggests a few considerations;—

1st. *Any element, artificially caused to combine with the constitution of any division of matter, where it is not found naturally, must, from the nature of things, be productive of evil, proportionate to its extent.* This principle implies,

2ndly, That every combination of elements must be in harmony with laws of nature. Else the result will be evil.

To apply these suggestions, to the administration of medicine, for the cure of disease, the conclusion is,—

That no element should be used, which is not adapted, by the nature of things, to assimilate with those composing the animal body, and thereby to assist in removing diseased action, by its natural aptness for such an end.

Herein is clearly seen the reason of the superiority of the Physio-medical practice over the old system; the very name of which,—*Allopathy*—from two Greek roots, signifying other affections,—is indicative of its principles,—viz.—to administer elements, not naturally adapted to assimilate with those of the human organization, thereby creating *another* diseased action, whose violence shall exceed that of the disease, the removal of which, they vain would effect, by the administration of such poisons.

Crude earths will not nourish us, if taken as food. Vegetable life must organize their elements:—then they will assimilate with those of the animal organization and become its support. So, likewise, before any substance can mingle with the system and be productive of good, in case of disease, it must be organized by vegetable growth. Hence, before crude mercury, arsenic, antimony, or the like, can be administered with benefit to the sick, it remains to be proved that those elements enter naturally into the composition of vegetable or animal growth.

From the foregoing reasoning, it follows,

1st, That animal life is nourished by material of vegetable growth, whose elements are derived from crude inorganic matter; and,

2ndly, That those elements of crude inorganic matter, never entering into vegetable growth, cannot be administered in disease, without the result's being more or less injurious.

What shall we say, then, of giving crude inorganized minerals to cure disease? How superior the vegetable practice! And facts are in harmony with the above principles. GEO. W. SKINNER.

*Newburyport, Feb., 1850.*

### “GIVE ME THY LANTERN.”

MR. EDITOR;—The aptness of this quotation, when applied to those mineral *professors* who are ever found in the dark corners of their vocation, crying “Light—give us light,” is, I think, on all subjects, in regard to which they are positively in the *dark*, quite conclusive. They cannot see through the mists which have recently risen;—they cannot see the distinct shadows which coming events cast before them;—they cannot see that a reform can originate and progress, and they have no agency in the matter. No. Notwithstanding their cry for light, and their anxious solicitude for the character of the profession, and the welfare of its time-honored usages; yet, when, in accordance with their expressed desire, light is presented to them, they shrink from it. Its glare is par-



alyzing ; and, like an assembly of flies at night, when approached by a torch, they fly and buzz about in confusion. The glory of a Millenium in the science of medicine is daily revealing itself, which must evidently, not only cast new *light*, but shake the throne of the Medico-Chirurgical dynasty to its final ruin.

I have looked with eagerness, to the good sense of the people, as a body, to overthrow this gigantic evil ; for, if done at all, it is the people who must do it ; and, from present indications, it would seem that our hopes cannot be disappointed. The opponents of natural remedies assume the prerogative of universal dictation on all subjects regarding disease. There is but one road which they care to travel. It is the road marked out by dictators, foreign or native, who hold the reins of progression in their own hands. This reminds me of a story of the man who used to travel a certain path, and, when improvements were made, finding that a house had been erected upon it, rather than walk around it, he would enter the house and jump through the back window. Now, this is precisely the case with Allopathic or Mineral Physicians. Yet we hear them calling for 'light' on the subject of disease ; and, when we divest it of its mystification, they are not willing to acknowledge our reasoning as legitimate. A science which demands so much intelligence,—which is, indeed, the essence of the virtuous practitioner—should be wrested from the hands of such charlatans ; and, if there is to be exclusiveness, to which I object, let it be confined to those who are laboring for the instruction of the masses. The people are interested in every reform affecting their happiness ; and not merely the *few* who arrogate to themselves superior wisdom, and claim the power to dictate and govern those, who, to say the least, should be allowed a hearing in relation to so important a matter.

Mr. Editor, you stated, in a late number, that you were anxious to learn the names and residences of the several Botanic or Eclectic physicians in the country. I am of that number, though not in New England. I purpose, with your permission, to furnish, through your columns, some account of my labors in this section of country.

S. H. BORDEN.

*Paterson, N. J., Feb., 1850.*

## AN APPEAL TO MEDICAL REFORMERS.

There is no particular, in which men so frequently miscalculate, as in their estimate of indirect or remote influences. I admit, that immediate agencies and their effects are all important; yet a strong tendency exists to over-estimate the present and under-value the future. Indeed this is a very necessary consequence. The immediate *influence* which is bearing strongly on our interests or happiness, imperiously demands our attention,—whilst that which is more remote, or less direct, is passed by unnoticed. Now, as the gurgling fountain, hidden in the mountain, is the remote source upon which the majestic river depends for its supplies, so these remote influences, not unfrequently, are the sources upon which our interests mainly depend.

There *are* remote agencies, which are constantly influencing every pursuit in life, and they are vital;—to neglect them is fatal. I will introduce one or two instances as illustrations. My boot maker has acquired the *ne plus ultra* in perfection in his profession. His skill adapts the leather to every prominence and depression; nay, he improves upon nature, and confers grace and symmetry where deformity before existed. A superficial observer will say, such an excellent workman must necessarily command patronage. But let fashion, that capricious mistress of the wardrobe, by her *fiat*, excommunicate the boot from *good society*, and the excellence of my friend's workmanship, and the utility and gracefulness of his fabric will not wrest it from disuse. I care not what she may deign to introduce in its stead;—the decree will have gone forth, and our friend and his boot will be superceded. Now, in this instance, *fashion* is the remote but *vital* influence, whose smile must be courted, and whose every whim must be studied and gratified.

Again, every one will say that the clergyman, who is pious and sincere, whose addresses are well digested, and carefully adapted to the wants and tastes of his flock; must necessarily be successful in his ministration. Indeed, it would seem as if these valuable qualifications, which so *immediately* influence his intercourse with



his charge, must secure success. But not so. There are *remote* and general influences which he must sustain, and whose every phase he must study, with a care no less intense than that of our friend the boot maker. Let the various means of religious organizations, and associations for the diffusion of religious information be suddenly arrested, and his influence and teachings are at an end. A universal infidelity is the consequence, and with our friend the boot maker he will become an "*obsolete idea.*"

The Theological Institutions and their kindred associations are the remote but *vital* influences upon which the clergyman's success mainly depends. For community is but an unit, a vast animal, composed, it is true, of heterogeneous materials, but all harmonizing to one great end. Indeed, this association of apparently incompatible materials is necessary to its perfect organization. Do we not see in every animal, antagonistic principles? Are not the functions of nutrition and destruction, constantly active? Are not the processes of decomposition and reproduction, of creation and decay, necessary to the very existence of animal life? The incompatibility of the associated ingredients forms no valid objection to the unity of community; and, although each individual, like the individual organs of the system, has duties to perform, relations to sustain, and responsibilities to meet; still,

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,"

and we may rest assured, that the remote influences affecting community will necessarily affect its members.

Are there not moral epidemics? Now these prevalent mental diseases are but symptoms of one grand disease. Community is sick, and its members are writhing. As, in the human system, different organs may be implicated by disease; so, in our great animal, different organs will exhibit, either primarily or sympathetically, the evidences of disease. Thus a spirit of conquest and war is but a morbid excitement of community's combativeness; excessive religious excitements, undue activity of its veneration. Infatuation, with regard to some benevolent enterprise, is but an over exertion of its benevolence. And thus, through all its ramifications, individual suffering is but a symptom of disease in the whole.

Now it must be apparent, that all who wish to secure success,



must devote their attention, not only to the *immediate* means, but also to those *mediate* influences which, though remote, must yet be sustained and fostered.

This brings me more immediately to the legitimate object of this article, viz, the *remote causes* upon which medical reform in New England mainly depends for its ultimate success. Indeed, these causes operate elsewhere with equal force, and this article will be found "calculated for other latitudes," as well as New England.

But, now, let me seriously propound the question to every friend of reform,—Has our cause been as successful as its intrinsic merits will warrant? If answered in the negative, and it can not be answered otherwise, another question immediately intrudes itself upon us. Is this want of success due to a lack of individual enterprise? Evidently not. For the Physomedical physician, without means, without literary, and, too frequently, professional training, and in defiance of a hostile public sentiment, has planted himself in every village and city of New England. Then why have we not been more successful? Why are our claims, even now, admitted so tardily? Why is the invidious phrase "*Regulars and Botanics*," still current? Because we have neglected, and are now neglecting those general and remote agencies upon which success always depends. We have neglected that public sentiment, which, if properly moulded, would, ere now, have ensured unparalleled success. We have neglected the remote agencies—our *Medical Schools* and *Medical Journals*.

Permit me once more to revert to my first position. Community is laboring under a chronic affection. Your personal exertions have heretofore been of a strictly topical character, confined to the little sphere in which you move. But do you not see, that the symptoms most markedly indicate general constitutional treatment? Now we must resort to those remedies which are general in their therapeutic action; and these general remedies are our means of public instruction,—viz: our *Schools* and *Journals*. Neglect these, and the disease will soon become so aggravated, as to drive you and your topical remedies from the arena.

We cannot succeed, depend upon it, unless we sustain our means of public instruction. Let me direct your attention, to the care

and liberality with which our Allopathic friends sustain their Institutions. Look at the munificent patronage extended to their Schools in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other places. Ah, yes! they have made out their diagnosis correctly; and are judiciously, even though Allopathically, administering those remedies, which, despite the defects in their system, secure to them success.

Now I appeal to the friends of reform. Will you stand by, and see our infant Institutions sink for want of proper aid? If you do, it requires no prophetic eye to foresee *you and your boot* forced into disuse, by a fashion sedulously courted by the more wary Allopathist. In the name of intelligence, I ask, Are our private offices so well furnished with medical libraries, as to render the aid of the School unnecessary? Or are we, as a class, so obtuse as not to appreciate the advantages of instruction? Do the reformed practitioners of New England, like some dogmatists of a sister profession, claim that science is a detriment to the physician? It is a fixed law in trade, that the article in market is, in quality, adapted to the demand. Can it be possible, that, in New England, the Attica of America, there exists a community or a class, so basely ignorant, as to repudiate a learned doctor? No, no! It is apathy—that death-like slumber, which insensibly yields to the narcotic influence of inaction, until successful resistance is impossible.

Let me beseech you once more, permit not our infant Schools to languish, but promptly and efficiently contribute that aid, which will give to them a vigorous and commanding influence. The Worcester School, with an energy worthy of better success, continues annually to disseminate instruction; but its Classes are as yet small, and its Faculty most severely feel the want of a suitable building.

There is something instructive in the history of this *only* Reform School in New England. An incipient effort was made, towards the organization of a Board of Instruction in the month of Feb. 1846; and, on the 4th of March following, Professors Newton and Kidder commenced a Course of Lectures for 13 weeks. In speaking of this effort, Prof. Newton, in the Medical Eclectic for May 16th, says, "The first Anniversary of this School will occur on Wednesday, the 3d of June next (1846). The Anniversary Ad-



dress will be belivered by Prof. I. M. Comings, M. D., of the Southern Botanico-Medical College at Macon, Georgia. The exercises will commence at 10 o'clock, A. M. The Course of Lectures which is now being delivered, is an *incipient effort*, designed to *test the question of probability* in regard to the School's being sustained ; and we are happy in being able to say, that the expectations of the friends are fully answered."

At the close of this *test Session*, four individuals graduated, receiving their degree from the Macon School. But a very serious difficulty was to be surmounted. This School was *unchartered*, and the Legislature of Massachusetts, influenced by the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, promptly rejected their earlier petitions. By dint of unwearied exertions, however, and at a great expense of time and money, a charter was finally obtained last season.

But, in the interim, changes had taken place in its Board of Trustees, and in its Faculty. The first Faculty, consisting of but two members, had been increased. An efficient plan of instruction, and an energetic Faculty, had given to it reputation abroad, and secured for it respect at home. An agent had collected subscriptions to the amount of between six and seven thousand dollars, to defray the expenses of building, apparatus, &c. We regret to say that the tardiness of those who subscribed, in sending in their subscriptions, and the difficulties in increasing this subscription, have, as yet prevented the Board from erecting the necessary buildings. And now, *once more*, shall this School and its founders, who have so nobly struggled against every difficulty, surmounted every obstacle, be permitted to linger for want of the necessary aid? The question has frequently been asked me by intelligent friends at the South and West, Why are your efforts at Worcester, not more vigorous? Why delay erecting your buildings? Shall I be compelled to say to such interrogators, that the reformers of New England feel so little interest in their medical Institutions, as to refuse to aid them in erecting the mere building? Little does the practitioner, located in some snug yankee village, think of the struggles, the anxieties, and the perplexities, which have harrassed the energetic *projector* of this Institution, the influence of which is



commanding for him, in his distant home, deference and respect. And now, after having collected around them an efficient Faculty, and large means of illustration, means which are daily increasing, shall the Trustees find a reluctance on your part, to aid in consummating the last measure necessary to its permanent establishment? Will you, or will you not give it a home?

The President and others have been and are now incurring expenses, which should be defrayed from other sources. The prospects of the Institution never were so flattering as at present. The most friendly relations have been established between this and the Physio-Medical College at Cincinnati,—three Professors from the latter School being also connected with this Faculty. Thus, with the elements of success at home, and friendly relations abroad, I again ask, shall the School be sustained? What New England man will say No?

Recollect, this is one of those remote influences which must be sustained, in order to secure individual success. The subject bespeaks its own importance; and now, trusting to that shrewdness of judgment, which so markedly characterizes the yankee, and to that enterprising benevolence, which is no less a prominent trait, I commit the fate of our Institution to your hands. May your decision be in accordance with the true interests of Humanity and Reform.

E. MORGAN PARRITT.

*Worcester, March 20th, 1850.*

## Editorial.

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### RUDBECKIA LACINIATA.

With some practitioners, this article has obtained reputation as a diuretic and anodyne. Dr. John L. Martin, writing us from Littleton, N. H., says, “The *rudbeckia laciniata* is one of the best diuretics I have ever used. It acts like a charm, on diseased kidneys, and is a noble remedy in dropsy.”

He, also, supposes its action on an affected spine to be favorable, and says, "I have seen the almost immediate arrest of pain in the back, loins, abdomen, and epigastrium, after taking half a pint of the decoction; and almost no inconvenience has afterwards been felt."

We would like to be informed what has been the experience of others in the use of this remedy. It may contain valuable medical properties, besides those here mentioned; and, if so, they should be generally known to the profession.

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### CORRECTIONS.

It is extremely mortifying to an editor, to find, that occasionally he has overlooked such mistakes of the printer, as render the language employed ungrammatical and nonsensical. Usually, we have trusted to the good sense of our readers to rectify errors of this character in the Journal; but sometimes—we trust, not often—those occur which even a *Yankee* can hardly be expected to guess out, nor a *Southerner* reckon what they should be. Such an instance is found on page 32, line 4 from the top, and was undiscovered by us, till pointed out by a friend. It is the use of the word *interrupting*, for *interposing*. Other errors we have detected; but they are generally such as our readers will correct for themselves. We will, however, just remark that, on page 72, line 8 from the top, the phrase *in generally*, should be *in general*.

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### H. H. SHERWOOD'S SUCCESSORS.

We would call the attention of our readers, to the Advertisement of H. H. Sherwood's Successors, which we first publish in this number. We know but little of the circumstances under which Dr. Morse has engaged in the manufacture of the "Gold Pills;" but shall endeavor to inform ourselves, and do justice, in our next issue, to those concerned. Time and space forbid our saying more at present.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., MAY 1, 1850.

NO. 5.

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Communications.

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COD LIVER OIL.—NEW WORK.—SCARLATINA.

PROF. NEWTON:

DEAR SIR,—For one, I should be happy to see, in the columns of the Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, your opinion, in relation to the properties and the benefits of cod liver oil, in pulmonary affections, &c., according to your observation and experience in its use. There seems to be a sort of *cod liver mania* raging throughout the country, as extensive, or more extensive even, than raged in England, in the latter part of the last century. Dr. Mason Good, a celebrated writer in London, says, "When advertising to the internal use of *oleum jecoris aselli*, (common train oil,



or that obtained from the liver of the cod-fish, not long also extensively tried), I had almost said a fashionable remedy, in consequence of the warm and confident recommendation of Dr. Percival. In chronic rheumatism, in slight cases, it may sometimes prove salutary, but its virtues cannot fairly stand in competition with those of the terebinthinate oils."

I have used cod liver oil, perhaps in forty or fifty cases, of bronchitis and pulmonary complaints, with very little benefit, other than temporary relief; as, in a few days or weeks at most, the patients have said, that they derive no benefit, and they decline its farther use.

Here is an extract from the New York Scalpel, for Feb. 1850, by Dr. Dixon, which is both interesting and sarcastic, under the head of "*Oleum Jecoris Aselli* !

"What, think you, is that, gentle reader? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, nor can we deny that a small quantity of adeps suillæ, extracted from the cellular tissue of the sus scrofa, and duly mingled with the proper quantity of cetaceum, taken by our sea-hunters from the head of the physeter macrocephalus, and oleum olivarum, the whole duly mingled during liquifaction, and, when partially congealed, delicately tinted with the powdered bodies of that love of an insect (we breathe it gently, so dear to the dissipated of the sex)—the coccus cacti, and flavored with some exquisite essence, and put in a little China box with a picture of Cupid upon it, would be more likely to be applied to those sweet lips after being blanchèd by a little dissipation, than hog's lard, spermaceti, and oil of olives, tinted with carmine, and packed in a wooden pill box! Here there is room for the display of genius, in getting up the article. But cod liver oil! Ah! Waugh! horrible! 'Twas well to put those big words at the head of this little squib; was'nt it? or you would never have read thus far. The philanthropists of the universal notion are in great glee in Boston, coining money from their new hobby horse. We somewhat suspect our honest friends of occasionally mistaking a stray whale, or shark, and may be a halibut, or a skate, for a cod-fish, to say nothing of that amphibious animal the aforesaid sus scrofa.

“Several of the gentlemen in the modern Athens talk learnedly and eloquently upon the excellent effect of the pure article, and, we bethink us, they are soon going to make everybody tell all they know about it, and may be, a little more. The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal says, that our Eastern friends are moving in the matter, in their grand style. A Committee of the ‘BOSTON SOCIETY FOR OBSERVATION IN MEDICINE AND THE COLLATERAL SCIENCES,’ have addressed a circular to the profession of that city, inviting some account of their experience with this ‘invaluable article.’ Of course, we shall have it soon plentifully. There is an old gentlemen somewhere in that salubrious neighborhood of fortieth street, who makes a great deal of this article, which is very beautiful in appearance; yet, strange to say, we never see any cod-fish’s liver about his house, but lots of dead dogs and horses. We don’t mean to insinuate anything, and hope he will forgive us; but he has a most roguish twinkle about his eye, when talking of the excellence of his ‘raal genooine article.’

“Seriously, Liebeg, and some others of our modern chemists and physiologists, have assured us, that fat, which is well known to be of difficult digestion, is far less nutritive than the red animal fibre or muscle of beef or mutton. Cod-liver oil does not, therefore, produce its good effect by its nutritive properties, as it has been suggested. The author first named proves, (see Percira,) that it yields ‘carbon and hydrogen to be burnt in the lungs, by which the temperature of the body, (always below par in consumption,) is supported without the living organ’s being oxidized and destroyed. It is, therefore, probable, that the temporary benefit derived from its administration to consumptives, proceeds entirely from this source; and that any other animal oil would produce the same results. The small quantity of iodine and bromine, contained in the oil, we do not believe of any value. Besides, it is by no means settled that either of these articles, when given in a pure state, and in much larger quantities than they exist in the amount of oil a consumptive could possibly bear on the stomach, will produce any permanently good effect, whatever. We have no hesitation, therefore, in classifying it, as a money-getting and medical agent, with sarsaparilla.

“The philanthropists, who are now so busy realizing fortunes by its sale, will go down to immortality with the gentry (*nostrum mongers*) we sketched in our last number. There is one painful reflection, in addition to its inefficacy, and that is a serious one ; we mean its cost. That immense quantities of lard and other common fish oils are sold for it, no one doubts. A poor mother, watching over the couch of her dying child, and anticipating benefit from that which she has purchased at the expense of needful food, is indeed painful to think of. We should not envy the feelings of the wretch who sells it, should he be placed in the same relation to a child of his own ; but they derive such comfort from their early education in roguery, that they would doubtless endure it well. Their foster-father, the devil, takes good care of them *here*. At any rate, we can spare him a few of our own apothecaries.”

It is with emotions of pleasure, that I anticipate the publication of your forthcoming work, on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, on the natural medical principles ; as such a work has been needed these twenty years. We have had no scientific Botanic works of any consequence. Dr. Beach's works are mere compilations ; and, like most of the Botanic works, very deficient in their classical and systematic arrangements. Most of them are on the penny pamphlet system, (as the first edition of Dr. Thomson's New Guide was called,) i. e. the simply naming the form of disease, and its specific. I should infer from the editorials in the first and third Nos. of the Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, on Tonsillitis and Tracheitis, that the New Work on Theory and Practice will fully meet the demands of Botanic physicians throughout the country.

In this town, at the present time, it is generally very healthy ; but, during the three winter months, scarlatina has been very prevalent here. I have had about fifty cases of it in its various forms, and have lost three patients. Two of them were speechless when I was first called, and the third was in spasms. One of the worst cases which assumed the malignant form, though the patient lived through it, was a boy of Mr. F. Cook's of this town. This child was between four and five years old. His constitution was naturally delicate, and he had had an attack of lung fever, only a few months previous to this attack of scarlatina.



The disease commenced, as it usually does, with slight delirium, nausea, and vomiting,—the eruption coming out on the second day,—quick pulse, difficult respiration, tongue coated, but very red on the end and sides. The affection of the throat rapidly assumed the malignant form, as the tonsils were swelled, and of a dark color, which extended into the pharynx, and over the velum palati; and, in several places, there were gray apthous crusts, which in part passed off in a few days, leaving a kind of sloughy ulceration, and a very fœtid odor, which made it very unpleasant to be over or near the patient. At this stage of the disease, the surface was clammy, the pulse quick and feeble; the fever having taken the low or typhoid character. In my opinion, the third preparation, capsicum, and mucilages, not only prevented mortification and speedy dissolution, but kept the patient from sinking, by assisting the vis medicatrix naturæ to remove the viscid mucus which kept accumulating about the fauces. As the disease progressed, the patient became very deaf, and more delirious. When suppuration of the sub-maxillary glands took place, the rash re-appeared, assuming a bluish or livid tint, being diversified by purple spots. The swellings of the parotid and sub-maxillary glands, on each side, were so enormous, that it was impossible for the patient to move his head, and the fever raged more furiously, than at any time previous. As the skin was excessively hot, the tongue and mouth were parched up with heat; the pulse for a few days was one hundred and forty beats in a minute; a thick dark brown coat was on the tongue; and there was an acrid discharge, with occasional hæmorrhage from the nostrils, diarrhæa, and suppression of urine.

What was the most remarkable, in this case, was the enormous tumefaction and suppuration of the glands in the neck, just below the angles of the jaw, (sub-maxillary,) which discharged each about a pint of pus. The parents think, that there must have been nearer a quart than a pint, from each. With the protracted violence of the disease, and with little or no other nourishment than the mucilaginous drinks, the patient was reduced to a mere skeleton. The debility and irritation on the nervous system were enough to exhaust him; as he had no rest of any consequence,

and there was little or no alteration in his symptoms for about a week, or while suppuration was going on, though, at the same time, the patient was taking the various anodynes of the vegetable materia medica, (the preparations of opium excepted,) with capsicum, wine whey, and a very little other stimulus to prevent sinking.

The treatment at the commencement consisted in the use of diaphoretic powders, emetics, and laxatives, in bathing the surface with tepid ley water, and the throat with rheumatic drops, and volatile liniment, and in the application of poultices and baths to the extremities ;—which afforded a little temporary relief, but failed to arrest the disease in its incipient stage, as it assumed the malignant type.

The child had the best of care and attention from its mother, and what I considered the most energetic and judicious treatment from day to day, as the symptoms indicated, (whether of emetics, laxatives, sudorifics, anodynes, astringent gargles, mucilages, anticeptics, expectorants, stimulants, or tonics,) together with daily bathing and various applications to the throat. This case I have reported from memory. I could not, therefore, give the minute particulars, as I had not the time to take notes from day to day. The patient was under my care, from Jan. 4 to Feb. 19, when he was convalescent, and in a fair way soon to be as well as usual.

As a general thing in scarlatina, in my opinion, external applications are of very little use, in tumefaction of the tonsil glands ; for I have applied almost everything, without the least benefit, seemingly. Then again, I have thought that wet cloths have had a good effect, but I think poultices, made of slippery elm and lobelia, and volatile or stimulating liniments are about the best applications after all. Some physicians use various kinds of animal and vegetable oils ; but it has always seemed to me, that anything of a greasy nature must have a tendency to fill up the pores, and as a matter of course be more injurious, than beneficial.     JOB T. DICKENS.

*Newburyport, Feb. 25th, 1850.*



## A CASE REPORTED.

Mr. C., aged 73, of a lymphatic temperament, now living in Harford, Susquehanna Co., was taken ill the first of Sept., 1849. I was called to see him at 2 o'clock, P. M.; found my patient, in appearance, laboring under symptomatic fever. His pulse was now about 90. On inquiry, I found that something like 20 years ago, while the patient and his brother were rolling logs, his foot became suddenly caught between them, and produced a very bad contusion, a little above the ankle. This, after a few years, caused an ulcer to break out on the tibia, midway between the ankle and knee. On examination, I found the limb discolored, and presenting a gangrenous appearance. His respiration was frequent and hurried; his countenance full and flushed. I ordered a cataplasm composed of *ulmus fulva*, (slippery elm,) and yeast, and the limb, to the knee, encased in the same. A mild cathartic was then administered, and an alterative course of treatment instituted. I called the following day, and found the limb, in appearance, about the same. The fever was diminished, the pulse 70, the respiration tolerable easy. Thus I kept my patient. Some of the old gentleman's friends called the next day; and, disbelieving in the Botanic practice, and considering that bleeding and blistering were two essential requisites in a case like this,—at the same time, wishing to carry out freely their opposition to the practice, called in Dr. S., an Allopathist, without informing me or the patient of their design. It so happened that I arrived but a few minutes after the doctor. No apology, however, was made for the doctor's presence. He forthwith took a look at the patient, and readily proposed venesection, as the only alternative. I remonstrated with the doctor,—stating that the age of the patient and the particular stage of his complaint forbade such a course of treatment;—that, in all probability, it would cause an extension of the inflammation, or render his case more uncertain of cure. But all was to no purpose. The Capitol of life must be invaded. This Citadel of age and infirmity, that had seen three score and ten years of unremitting toil and hardship peculiar to one of the first settlers, must be



stormed, lancet in hand, to quicken it into life and renewed energy. Bleeding was practiced at 3 o'clock P. M., and a full quart taken. A poultice of honey, and rye flour, was substituted for the one I had previously applied; a dose of epsom salts given; and a solution of emetic tartar was left, as was said, to moderate arterial action, and cause diaphoresis. As I had diagnosticated, in about 48 hours from the time of bleeding, the old gentleman was worse. A messenger was dispatched, requesting my immediate attendance. I repaired to the house of my sick friend, as soon as circumstances would permit, and found him in the following condition. His pulse 100; his countenance anxious and ghastly; an efflorescence extending over the whole body, interspersed with dark-colored patches, somewhat resembling the affected limb; the ulcer was perfectly dry, and surrounded by a dark areola, and exceedingly painful. I cast off the poultice of Dr. S., and applied my former one, with the exception of adding the strong decoction of baptista tinctoria (indigo weed). This, with daily bathing the surface of the body, with an alkaline fluid, and an occasional cathartic to create proper alvine discharges, was the treatment for the four succeeding days after my second visit. The result was, the ulcer began to assume a healthy appearance; the morbid redness began to disappear from his body, and the sore to discharge. In order to keep up this discharge and to heal the ulcer, I opened an issue about two inches below. On the third day, the issue discharged profusely dark putrid blood; which seemed to cause the ulcer to heal, and to control the fever, which soon subsided.

My patient now began to improve gradually, and all went on well, until the last of September, when the ulcer once more became dry, and there occurred considerable gastric derangement. There was vomiting of a gelatinous nature, attended with coma; a ghastly countenance; his intellect became very much disturbed; and he frequently remarked, that there was no hope in his case, &c. I watched the suggestions of nature, and gave a solution of bi-carbonate of soda. Fifteen minutes after, I gave an emetic of lobelia inflata, by which free vomiting was induced. The patient threw up about two quarts of gelatinous substance, mixed with green bile, and was relieved. His skin now became moist; the ulcer soon

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began to discharge; and, by the aid of our best alteratives, my patient, in a few days, was convalescent.

I have been more particular in relating this case, than I should have been, had not Dr. S. told the friends of the old gentleman, after he became worse, that there was no hope in the case, and even remarked, that I might as well give water as medicine, as it would do no good. This is only one among a hundred cases, which I might mention and which have occurred, in my humble practice, to meet the cavils of opposition and skepticism. E. N. LOOMIS.

*Harford, Pa., Feb. 24th, 1850.*

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## “A CHANGE OF PHYSICIANS IS DANGEROUS.”

### “LOBELIA KILLED HIM.”

Expressions, like the above, exert an influence, for good or for ill, according as they are true or false.

I here present the following facts.

I have been called, in some instances, to the sick room, where disease has fastened its iron grasp so firmly on its victim, that I have feared, and expressed my fears, as to the result. In a few of these instances, I have been happily disappointed, in regard to the efficacy of my own treatment. On the other hand, when the friends have chosen to call in some one else, the result has always proved an undesirable one.

In no case, in which I was the first physician called, and commenced the treatment under auspicious circumstances, have I lost the patient. I have, for a while, treated several, who, through the officiousness of others, or otherwise, have afterwards been treated by Allopathic physicians. The result has been, that three-fourths of them have died.

On the other hand, a good number have been put under my care, who had previously been treated by Allopathists; and that, too, in several cases, in which they had been considered almost hopeless, not only by themselves and friends, but by their former

physicians. Under these circumstances, I have, as yet, lost not more than one in twelve.

I am aware, that these statements seem large, to those who disbelieve in that medical treatment, which is designed simply to assist nature in her own work,—being substantially “herb teas,” with outward applications. They may disbelieve. They may cling to their former notions. But the above are facts,—common facts; and I challenge any person to controvert any one of them.

The following circumstances have induced me to take up this subject. Some five weeks since, I was called to see a young man, sick with lung fever. He had been sick, until his disease seemed firmly seated; and I was permitted to treat him but little over one full day. As I had not the power to work miracles, he was still sick. At this time, a young doctor, recently from the city of Nottingham, called to see him, either on his own responsibility, or that of a friend. He informed him, that there was a chance for him to be “pretty sick.” It may be, he thought I did not know it, or thought I had not the materials by which to accomplish it; or else that I was not yet entirely devoid of moral principle.

But the young man, instead of following my advice, (and my opinion, he knew, was that he would soon recover, under proper treatment,) followed the advice of the one, who thought there was a chance for him to be “pretty sick,”—left off taking my medicine, and sent for a *noted* physician in a neighboring town. The result was, he not only was “pretty sick,” but died in about four weeks from the time he was taken.

After this, it came, floating on the breeze, that “he died from the effects of lobelia.”

Once more. This attending physician was invited in to see another of my patients, about the time in which he commenced with the young man. This patient, a child, I thought to be much more dangerous, than the one referred to; as she had, just before, been sick with scarlet fever,—was taken in this sickness with fits, which were very severe; and was teething, in addition to the lung fever. He said there was “disease enough upon the child’s lungs to make her sick, if nothing more.” And, though he could not give any encouragement, that he could cure the child, yet he re-



proached the child's parents, for their ignorance in employing such treatment, and repeatedly urged them to let him prescribe for the child. They told him, that, if they wanted any more of him, he should be notified of it. The child has recovered, in spite of the "disease upon her lungs," and "lobelia." R. CUMMINGS.

Northbridge, March 16, 1850.

## MEDICAL JOURNALS.

BY PROF. E. M. PARRITT, M. D.

The present is emphatically an age of improvement. Indeed, if one's character be tinged with the slightest shade of transcendentalism, he will readily come to the conclusion, that the *wants* of community are the cause,—*improvements*, the effect. The tide of emigration, pouring from the eastern side of the Alleghanies, to the *wildly* luxuriant valleys of the West, and following the course of our majestic rivers, demanded a more speedy method of transportation; and, in obedience to the behest, as if by magic, the *flat*, and *keel boats*, with their snail-like pace, and noisy crews, disappeared from the Western Waters, and were re-placed by the majestic Steam Boat.

Once the wild echoes of the Blue Ridge and Laurel Hill were startled from their drowsy slumbers, by the rude song of the Pennsylvania wagoner, with his *six horse team*, winding slowly up their dizzy heights, carrying to the then infant West its supplies of merchandise; but the increasing demand for transportation soon *channeled* the entire length of the State, perforated the mountains; and eastern merchandise, at far cheaper rates, and in quantities adequate to the demand, floated smoothly along the monotonous canal. The anxious echo on the mountains, in vain expects the loud "*Wo haw*;" the bar-room of the half-way house no longer resounds with the rude jest and loud laugh of the *burly* wagoner; and, save an occasional specimen, this variety of the genus *homo* is now extinct.

But even the slow transportation of the *canal*, lagging behind the pressing demands of commerce, has in its turn been nearly superseded by the more expeditious *rail road* and its *freight train*.

Again the pressing wants of business men demanded a more speedy transmission of intelligence. The fluctuation in the prices of commodities in the market, and their excess or deficiency, continually influencing the distant purchaser and his final consignee, it became a matter of immense importance to transmit intelligence as early as possible. The *post-chaise* and the still speedier *express*, could not furnish the desideratum; but, to meet the *want*, the most subtle element in Nature's laboratory is pressed into the service. And, *presto-change*, the Magnetic Telegraph springs into existence. Who will therefore doubt, that *want* and *improvement* bear to each other the relation of *cause* and *effect*.

Nor is improvement confined to business transactions, and their concomitant machinery. Society in all its ramifications, in all its varied phases, has originated *new wants* of a moral and intellectual nature. These, too, have been, and are now being supplied by corresponding improvements. The diffusion of intelligence, through community, has been commensurate with the improvement in the transmission of merchandise and mercantile information.

The farmer, seated by his cheerful hearth, no longer rests satisfied with the petty gossip of his immediate neighborhood, or the oft repeated tale of *ghost*, or *dangerous adventure*. The limits of his farm no longer bound his intelligence or his reflections; but, rising to his true position, he demands information on all the moral, intellectual, and political movements of the age. To meet this demand and supply this new mental want, an almost innumerable number of periodicals, from the stately quarterly to the penny sheet, devoted to every interest and movement, adapted to every taste, and every pursuit, has sprung into existence; and opinions as well weighed, and judgments as intelligently formed, will be met with in the retired farm-house, as in the legislative halls, or the college edifice. Seated by his hospitable board, he descants on all the conflicting interests of the day, or draws new funds of intelligence from his guest, whose means of information have been more extensive, or of a different character. He rises from the interview, his



mind expanded by the discussion, or his intelligence increased by the conversation, a better man, an intellectual being, an intelligent citizen.

Even the dear, old-fashioned, benevolent, yet scandal-loving *sewing society*—ah, dear reader, excuse me, I dare not venture to let you peep in,—a pair of black eyes flash daggers at the intrusion, and I have long since (heigh ho, I'm married,) learned *to be discreet*.

But old Mrs. Partington laments the good old times, now gone forever, when her soul was refreshed, and her abhorrence of crime increased, by the recital of this one's improprieties, and that one's derelictions. Good old soul; her brain reels, at the incessant chatter (I beg pardon, ladies,) about benevolent societies and moral reform. Why, even the confidential (!) gossip about Mrs. S.—and deacon B.—is no longer listened to with greedy ears. Indeed, all is changed. The sly remark, the ominous swing of the head, the mysterious look, and the insinuating whisper, all have yielded to a new set of topics of a general nature, giving rise to general conversation, in which all participate. And the good old lady is *exceedingly* annoyed,—so she is. But, dear reader, I'm all in a perspiration from fear, now do let us retreat in time. Suffice it to say, as we leave this dangerous neighborhood, new wants here have called forth their corresponding improvements.

Intelligence on scientific subjects is no longer confined to the learned, nor professional information to the "*study*." All begin to feel and exercise their right to investigate; and this disposition to investigate has given sad disquietude to many a time-honored system. Controversies have arisen in Physics and Ethics, in Medicine, Law, and Divinity. But the umpire to which these disputes are referred, has markedly changed its character. No man, however learned, can, by his single decision, settle the controverted point. Community has become the umpire, and its decisions are alone final.

Among the many vexed questions of a reformatory character which are now referred to this tribunal, is the all important one of Medical Reform. It is not my purpose to discuss the merits of the controversy, but merely to show, that the new demands thus created for medical information, have also been followed by the



corresponding means of supply. And, if my readers will accompany me a little longer, we will close our "literary (or rather medical) ramble," by looking into a few of these "means of medical information." Belonging to the *Reformers* in medicine, I shall confine my remarks to means of a similar character. Among the most prominent of these means, are our medical Journals. These, having sprung hastily into existence, urged by the imminence of the controversy, necessarily present a great variety of character. Being the *effect* of a sudden demand, they lack, in many instances, the polish and refinement of the "more improved sequence;" yet the Physo-Medical practitioner can, with pride, refer to Journals as polished and refined as any in the ranks of the opposing faction.

Among these means of public information, the "New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal," deservedly holds a commanding position. There are certain features in the character of this Journal, which are well worthy a close inspection. Its able editor, Prof. C. Newton, has commenced the current volume, with the publication of a series of articles, on Theory and Practice,—articles which he subsequently proposes to embody in a work on the Reformed System. Two of these articles are now before the public, viz. on Tonsillitis, and Tracheitis; and, if the testimony of intelligent *medical* men may be relied on, they have met with almost universal approbation. I cannot resist the temptation to quote from a private letter received from my friend Prof. Courtney of the Physo-Medical College at Cincinnati. Speaking of these articles and their embodiment in a Work on Theory and Practice, he says, "In reference to the medical work which Dr. Newton is preparing, I hope he will complete it, as soon as circumstances will permit. Such a work is very much needed. We have more than enough *such* as they *are*, but *none* such as we should have." Nor is this a solitary expression of approbation. But let us inspect these articles for ourselves. In the article on Tonsillitis, which is a fair representative of the subsequent articles, the author has given us a careful anatomical description of the parts implicated, their pathological conditions, the diagnosis, treatment, and indications of cure. In this single article, which most emphatically deserves the appellation of a *multum in parvo*, we have all the advantage of

the author's extensive course of medical reading, as well as of his own experience. An inspection of the article will show its practical character; and no man in New England is better qualified to communicate that practical, sick-bed-side information, so invaluable to the physician. Having a very extensive practice, embracing every variety of disease, with habits of close observation and minute discrimination, and truly devoted to innocent and sanative medication, he will be enabled to spread before his readers, in all these articles, the rich gleanings of research and experience.

So much for these *editorial* articles. But these are not its only attractions. In the present number, among the *selections* will be found an article on "Congestive Fever," by my friend Prof. Curtis of Cincinnati. In this article Prof. Curtis has exhibited his usual research, and tact in *polemic* medicine; and woe betide the man who stirs up "*old gray's*" ire. I look upon this as one of Curtis' happy hits, in which he has done himself and his subject ample justice. No man can rise up from reading this article, and not be improved by the perusal.

Thus, with gems gathered from every source, this favorite Journal comes monthly, with its rich gleanings and original matter,—matter which can be derived from no other source. Prof. Newton, as an editor, stands second to none in our medical Reform. Formerly Professor of Rhetoric and Hebrew, in Waterville College, Maine, he has the advantage of cultivated taste, and classical training, which enable him to render his Journal interesting, as well as instructive. The *editorials* are written in a neat concise style, free from unnecessary medical terms, and yet sufficiently technical to prevent misconception. Containing a concise history of current medical reform, and advocating such a change in medication as will, from the wrecks of the *old*, rescue what is valuable and worthy of preservation, for the benefit of the *new*, it cannot but be a welcome visitor to the *general* reader, as well as to the *professional* man. Its "*selections*" and "*editorials*" make it a permanent and valuable work of reference; while its style, and execution, render it an agreeable companion,—a medical *vade mecum*, which we shall always peruse with pleasure and profit.

"Ante focum, si frigus erit, si messis in umbra."



My limits will only permit me to add a brief notice of "The Physo-Medical Recorder and Surgical Journal," edited by Prof. Stockwell of Cincinnati. This spirited Journal, devoted to the interests of Reform in the West, is a most invaluable co-worker in our medical revolution. Having an extensive list of "original contributors" and a wide circulation in the South and West, it presents to its readers the different phases of Reform and the Reformed Practice, in that portion of the Union; and, in connection with the New England Journal of Prof. Newton, is almost a *sine qua non*, in the physician's office.

By the way, there is a species of transcendentalism in the composition of my friend Stockwell, a little disposition to the *dreamy* philosophy; but the attentive reader of the Journal will readily recollect certain *neat* little articles on *female excellence*, which may probably furnish the key to all this. Stock— is a bachelor; and, to use an expressive western phrase, "*awfully susceptible*."

I should, if time and space would permit, extend this notice to the various periodicals devoted to medical reform. The two already noticed have fallen more particularly within my sphere of observation, and their utility and influence have been so frequently demonstrated, that I feel constrained thus to award to them the meed they so abundantly merit. Published at rates which place them within the reach of all, no good apology can be rendered for neglecting to avail ourselves of the valuable information they present; and that physician who can supinely plod along the beaten track, and refuse to aid in their support, is undeserving the patronage of any community. He must be obtuse, indeed, and, it seems to me, culpably remiss in his duties to community, who is willing to neglect means of information, so *cheap* and yet so *valuable*.

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### BUSH'S SARSAPARILLA.

The subscriber, finding his professional duties increasing so much as to prevent his attention to the preparation of his Sarsaparilla, and being deficient in the means for prosecuting the business suc-



cessfully, has relinquished his privileges to Bush & Co., who have the most ample facilities for carrying on the business, and who will be ready to supply any who may want the pure extract of Sarsaparilla.

He has examined their Sarsaparilla, and is well acquainted with their method of preparation, so that he can assure the public of its genuineness. Since it is from the right species of the Smilax, and since one of the firm is in the South, superintending the gathering of the root in the proper season, as well as inspecting its quality, he can safely recommend their preparation as superior to any other in the market.

All orders from old customers can be sent direct to Bush & Co., or to the subscriber, who will see that the Sarsaparilla is immediately forwarded.

Bush & Co. put up the article very neatly in large bottles at *eight dollars* per dozen, with five per cent discount to such as make cash payments.

To those Physicians, therefore, who want the pure Sarsaparilla, the subscriber can recommend this article as worthy their particular attention.

I. M. COMINGS.

Worcester, April, 1850.

## PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

PROF. NEWTON;—

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed is one dollar for your excellent Journal. I say *excellent*; because, in its present form, with its additional and spirited matter, what else can we say of it? In speaking thus of the current volume, I, by no means, mean any disrespect to the former volumes; for they were well worth the dollar,—this is *doubly* so.

It is but a few years, since we had but two or three different books or periodicals, treating upon the Botanic system of medicine. How great is the contrast at the present time! Now we have nu-

merous authors, upon almost every subject pertaining to the medical profession, besides a respectable number of Journals which bid fair to be ably supported, and liberally patronized.

Then there are the medical Institutions. Success to *them* also. I hope our students will duly patronize and *appreciate* them. Experience has taught all the early advocates of the reformed system of medicine, how much such Institutions have been needed. I rejoice to learn, that we have scientific men in our ranks, who are now preparing works upon Surgery;—something *very much* needed; and I hope it will not be long, before we shall see the work which you spoke of in your last Journal. Then we can be rather more independant of the Allopathists, than we now are.

Those who enter the field as students, at the present day, have everything to encourage them to *press forward* in their undertaking. They are not compelled to get along with the limited means, for acquiring a medical education, which only we, who embraced the system thirty, twenty, or even ten years ago, enjoyed.

Again, I say, *success* to our “Journals,” and *success* and long life to our “medical Institutions.” According to present prospects, the principles of our practice are becoming too generally known, to leave room for such interrogations as the following, viz: Can the Thomsonians, Botanics, Reformers, or Eclectics; (whichever class the inquirer may happen to address,) set broken bones, reduce dislocated joints, dress dangerous wounds, or venture to attend in a case of obstetrics?

Such questions as the above, have, I presume, been put to almost every physician of the Reformed Practice, by which ever of the above names he may happen to be called,—especially to the older, or earlier practitioners. The answer, (with some exceptions,) has been given in the affirmative; though we have had to go by common-sense theory, instead of scientific or book theory. I may, at some future time, say a word as to my own *experience* on the above two parts of the practice.

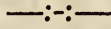
Very respectfully, yours,

New York, March, 1850.

C. JOHNS.



## Selections.



### CONGESTIVE FEVER.

PROF. STOCKWELL.—Agreeably to your request, I prepare for your paper an article on "*Congestive Fever*." Preliminary to this, however, I must remind you that I believe, with Hunter, that "fever, like inflammation, is a simple act of the constitution (vol. iii, 299), sanative in its nature (293), and always tending to bring about a reinstatement of the parts to nearly their natural functions" (286); and, with Professor Martyn Payne, of New York, that "inflammation takes its rise in purely physiological conditions, and holds its progress and decline under the same great natural laws of the constitution." (Inst., No. 711.) Of course, as neither can, with any shadow of propriety, be termed disease, I shall consider them both what they truly are, vital manifestations of deranged or suppressed functions, using the term congestive to signify the condition of the fluids and the solids in peculiar manifestations of the febrile, that is, the deranged constitutional or physiological actions. I know of but one fever or inflammation to which the human body is subject, nor shall I ever attempt to describe but one, or to treat that one as disease. Whoever differs from me in this respect is welcome to his medical knowledge and his keen discernment.

Before I proceed further, it may be well to give your readers a bird's-eye view of what the Allopathists do (not) know upon the subject. Should I then prove, that I know nothing about it, I should have the consolation of being surrounded by a large company of literary, scientific, and jovial gentlemen, who would be the last to reproach me for my ignorance, *in their hearts*, whatever their professional policy might dictate in their outward conduct. We are told by Bigelow and Holmes, that "the term congestive fever has been applied to different febrile affections, in which it was either anatomically demonstrated or inferred from the symptoms, that the blood was preternaturally accumulated in some of the intestinal organs. It is evidently, however, an improper specific term, since the existence of this lesion, or its supposed symptoms, is common to several totally distinct diseases. The same reason exists against its use as would hold against the employment of such a specific designation as delirious fever. We shall briefly show that congestive fever is not a distinct disease."



Dr. Chisholm says: "It ought to be a general rule of practice to consider all *remittent* fevers, *within the tropics*, as symptomatic of local congestion or inflammation." Drs. Armstrong and Mackintosh "consider it a form of typhus," and describe it as "characterized by a great depression of the energies of the system, in consequence of which there is, in severe cases, very imperfect reaction, or none at all. In consequence of venous congestion, there is, either a total want of morbid heat, or a concentration of it in some parts of the body, while others are considerably beneath the natural temperature. Overpowering lassitude, pain in the head, confusion of mind, feebleness of pulse, and coldness of the extremities, are among the prominent symptoms." B. and H. say; "This is the train of symptoms found also in *spotted* fever. In *intermittent* fever there is sometimes an icy coldness, and death without reaction." Dr. Mackintosh says: "The appearances on dissection are much the same as those described in intermittent fever. The *cold plague* in the United States is marked by collapse, sinking, coldness, and death, often within twenty-four hours. It is considered, by some of our most intelligent physicians, as the *first stage* of an intermittent in its most aggravated form—the stage of reaction being wanting. The earlier stages of *Asiatic cholera* and some cases of scarlatina present very similar phenomena. The blood and heat leave the skin, which becomes cold and shrunken; the action of the heart becomes laborious; and the patient dies, as if the internal organs were oppressed by the fluids which have left the surface." Dr. Miner says: "Ever since the ravages of cynanche maligna in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, in 1735, the physicians of New England have known, that, in its worst form, that disease had no stage of reaction. Why they should be taken by surprise, when they met with cases of spotted fever, dysentery, yellow fever, and even common typhus, where this stage is wanting, it is extremely difficult to conceive." "It is as difficult," say Bigelow and Holmes, "to see why a *state*, common to several distinct diseases, should be qualified by a specific name, as if it were itself a disease. A peculiar morbid condition however, the collapsed state of the system, *supposed* to arise from congestion, deserves particular attention." [Bigelow and Holmes's M. Hall, pages 230–2].

"The congestive form of ague is throughout of a dynamic character. The cold stage which is much protracted, is ushered in by vertigo and deep-seated pain of the head, followed by general trembling rather than rigor. The pulse is small and weak; and, not unfrequently, fainting and coma add to the alarm. The hot stage struggles on slowly, and, as it were, unwillingly, and then is but:

imperfectly developed ; so that, instead of the usual characters of this stage, there is only a low, oppressed condition. The sweating stage is scarcely perceptible. The period of intermission is marked by a pale, worn, contracted countenance, general oppression of the system, constricted and anxious breathing, and a small, hard, and frequent pulse. The surface of the body is colder than usual, with an incapacity to retain its warmth, at the same time that the internal parts feel heated and irritable. This modification of ague, however, seldom occurs, excepting in hot countries, where there is much prevailing marsh exhalation, and there only in those constitutionally nervous and irritable, or whose health has been impaired, and the powers of the system exhausted, by previous disease [or depressing agents used as remedies]. Boissseau states that it ‘occurs in quotidians, double tertians, tertians and quartans ; it sometimes takes on, alternately, these different types ; at other times they are irregular.’ The duration of congestive intermittent is little known. It is a peculiarly fatal variety of ague.” [Library of Practical Medicine, pages 287–8].

I intended to quote from many other sources on this subject, but I perceive that I should occupy too much space with “hypotheses piled on hypotheses.” Suffice it to say, that some authors treat of congestive fever as a distinct, specific disease ; others call it a variety ; still others, more numerous and, perhaps, authoritative, as the above, pronounce it a *state* of the fluids, a *condition* of the functions, a stage or a *symptom* of many diseases. They generally agree in the opinion, that it is a very *depressed* condition of something. They are divided and entirely unsettled in opinion, both as to the cause, condition, and seat of congestion, and its treatment. They believe it to be a very depressed state of the system ; hence, some use what they call “the most active stimulants.” (“Heat friction, brandy, and opium, were the most common prescriptions.”) Dr. Gallup used the lancet. The most of them “rouse to action by stimuli, and control this action by depletion!” Opium, brandy, lancets, and calomel, are the remedies to cure very *depressed* states of the system, supposed to be caused by something, and seated somewhere, and to be either a specific disease, or a condition, or a stage or symptom of something else that is supposed to be disease ! See extracts above and others on this subject.

If, now, I should throw no ray of light on what is called congestive fever, or its treatment, I should deserve the honor of being ranked with the greatest medical men that ever lived. (See Armstrong, Clutterbuck, Southwood, Smith, &c., particularly the latter on fever.) If I should tell what it is, and on what principles, with what agents, and in what manner, to treat it, I should get the name



of an ignoramus and a quack. I shall choose the latter honor, and give you my "notions."

1st. In a state of health, we observe that the blood and other fluids are equally distributed in all parts of the body, according to the quantum that each part was designed to contain.

2d. That this equilibrium is sustained by the equal pressure afforded, on the one hand by the propulsive action of the heart and arteries, and on the other by the contractile power of the arterial capillaries, and the activity of the absorbents. We observe,

3d. That this equilibrium of the circulation, absorption, and nervous action, may be, and often is, deranged or destroyed by either of two causes: either (*a*) the deficiency of the circulating or diffusive power, or (*b*) the excessive action of external agents on the capillary system and nervous extremities, producing too great a resistance to the full action of that power.

4th. That the effect of the deficiency of the circulating power is, to allow the *ordinary* external pressure to prevent the fluids from coming to the surface or reaching their internal absorbents thro' the arteries, or from returning to the heart through the veins. In the former case, the blood accumulates in the arteries and dilates their extremities, and this is called arterial congestion; or, if it escapes to the absorbents or the glands and finds them too weak to perform their part in sending it back to the heart, or onward to its other places of destination, it accumulates in the veins and is called venous congestion; or in some of the ducts, and is called after the name of those ducts or their secretion, as hepatic, biliary, cerebral or nervous congestion.

5th. That the effect of the excess of the action of external causes, as cold, &c., is to overcome the full amount of healthy pressure, or diffusion of the blood and other fluids, and thus to confine them within, as before. This is exemplified by taking cold from the exposure of a healthy but relaxed body to a cold and chilly atmosphere.

6th. That if, from either cause, the blood is slowly accumulated in a part that is in a condition impressible to its stimulating influence, the result is undue excitement, and, of course, fever, with the congestion; and the degree of this febrile action always exactly corresponds to the excess of the vital power over the opposition of the obstructing cause. Thus a gradual accumulation of blood in a healthy organ produces strong febrile or inflammatory symptoms; while, in a weak constitution, the excitement or reaction, termed fever and inflammation, is proportionably either weak or transient, or compounded of the two. This is called congestive fever.

7th. But that, if the blood or any other fluid is rapidly accumu-



lated in a part that is *not* impressible to its stimulating action, no febrile or inflammatory action is excited, and this is called simple congestion.

8th. If obstructions impede the circulation in healthy parts, and provoke healthy reaction (called fever), and a physician who calls that fever disease lets blood and weakens the febrile power (No. 3), or gives opium and depresses nervous sensibility, or calomel, and powerfully depresses the energies of life," he reduces the patient to condition No. 3 *a*, and its consequences (No. 4), and this is called changing the fever from the active to the congestive type or stage! If this treatment is pressed, the patient exhibits all the most prominent symptoms ascribed to congestive fever, and dies of that "fatal disease" (the antiphlogistic treatment). But I would not deny that there are cases in which the constitutional power is so weak that neither unassisted nature, nor even the aid to her efforts of a judicious and effective artificial treatment, can succeed.

From the above facts and considerations it will be perceived, that, when the blood is suddenly and powerfully driven to an internal part, it accumulates in such a quantity before the nerves have time to get up an irritation and contraction of the arterial capillaries which constitute the inflammatory or febrile symptoms, that they are overcome and paralyzed by the mere pressure of the accumulation, and, of course, that the congestion will fall, in different subjects and in the same subject at different times, on different internal organs. Thus, in the speaker who has fatigued and prostrated his brain and increased his circulation by long and violent exertions, the reaction will drive the pressure to the brain and produce apoplexy; while, in the one whose liver or spleen or lungs is debilitated, and whose centrifugal circulation is suddenly suppressed, as by falling into cold water when in a relaxed condition, will have congestion of the liver, spleen, lungs, &c.,—the congestion always locating where the resistance is the weakest. We also clearly perceive that, if the derangement of the circulation is gradual and the excitement in this locality powerful, there is high inflammatory action, and, of course, the congestion, though always partially present, as in pleuritis, is not noted; yet the close observer clearly perceives that there is and can be no such case as pure fever or inflammation without congestion, or pure congestion without *any* febrile or inflammatory action.

From these facts, and the principles deduced from them, it is very clear, that congestion is not a specific disease, but that it is a condition in many forms of disease, and may be induced by the physician, almost as often as he chooses, or removed by a good treatment whenever there is vital power sufficient, when properly aided, to overcome the action of the causes of congestion.

TREATMENT.—In this three things are necessary :

1. To remove, by art, the external opposition to an equilibrium of the fluids.
2. To aid nature in removing the irritation and its causes.
3. To stimulate the propelling powers to the performance of healthy functions.

The *first* of these indications is fulfilled by the use of moisture, with warmth or cold—alternately or continuously, as the case may require—to the surface and other secernant organs accessible ; the cool bath, the warm or vapor bath, the sponge or the wet sheet, where and whenever needed, with expectorants, enemas, &c.

The *second*, by the use, internally, of fluids involving soothing agents, as the aromatic mints, spearmint, peppermint, catnip, sage, balm, hoarhound, pennyroyal ; the more nauseating relaxants, as lobelia, boneset, bitterroot, &c. And this and the *third*, by the use of stimulants : as asarum, senega, xanthoxylum, ginger, cayenne ; astringents, as bayberry, hemlock, sumac, blackberry ; and tonics, as poplar, wild cherry, peach leaves, bark and kernels, ptelea, hydrastis, and the like ; and by mild and nutritious diet. (See my articles on diet in this volume.)

Emetics should be given to break the severe congestions ; and the relaxation and diffusive stimulation should be continued, moderately but constantly, till the equilibrium of the circulation and the nervous action is restored.

Whoever understands the principles and indications above expressed, and is able to refer the case before him to its proper place among them, will have sense enough to apply, in a proper manner, the remedies I have named or indicated. One who could not make these distinctions, would not be more successful, were I to be more particular.

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## WONDERS OF GEOLOGY.

More than nine thousand different kinds of animals have been changed into stone. The races of genera of more than half of these are now extinct, not being at present known in a living state upon the earth. From the remains of some of these animals, they must have been larger than any living animals now known upon the earth. The Megatherium. (Great Beast.) says Buckland, from a skeleton, nearly perfect, now in the Museum at Madrid, was perfectly colossal. With a head and neck like those of the Sloth, its legs and feet exhibit the character of the Armadillo and the Ant-



eater. Its fore feet were a yard in length, and more than twelve inches wide, terminated by gigantic claws. Its thigh bone was nearly three times as thick as that of the elephant; and its tail, nearest the body, was six feet in circumference. Its tusks were admirably adapted for cutting vegetable substances, and its general structure and strength were intended to fit it for digging in the ground for roots, on which it principally fed. *Buckland's Treatise.*

## Editorial.

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### PAROTITIS.

DEFINITION. This disease is the *cynanche parotidæ* of Cullen. The vernacular name is *mumps*. It consists in an inflammation of the parotid glands particularly, but yet an inflammation which extends commonly to the sub-maxillary and sometimes to the sublingual glands. It is, however, of a specific kind, the product of a specific contagion.

ANATOMY OF THE PARTS CONCERNED.—The *parotid gland* is situated immediately in front of the external ear, and extends *superficially*, for a short distance, over the masseter muscle, and *deeply* behind the ramus of the lower jaw. It reaches inferiorly to below the level of the angle of the lower jaw, and posteriorly to the mastoid process, slightly overlapping the insertion of the sterno-mastoid muscle.

The *submaxillary gland* is situated in the posterior angle of the sub-maxillary triangle of the neck. It rests upon the hyo-glossus and mylo-hyoideus muscles, and is covered in by the body of the lower jaw, and by the deep cervical fascia. It is separated from the parotid gland by the stylo-maxillary ligament, and from the sublingual, by the mylo-hyoideus muscle.

The *sublingual* is an elongated and flattened gland, situated beneath the mucous membrane of the floor of the mouth, on each side of the frænum linguæ. It is in relation *above* with the mucous membrane; *in front* with the depression by the side of the symphysis of the lower jaw; *externally* with the mylo-hyoideus mus-



cle; and *internally* with the lingual nerve and genio-hyo-glossus muscle.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—The affected glands swell, and the tumefaction extends commonly, from beneath the ears, along the neck, to the chin. The facial aspect of the patient is, of course, materially changed; but the precise form depends on the comparative amount of inflammation accompanying each of the several glands. Ordinarily, one side is affected sooner than the other, and sometimes the affection is almost exclusively confined to one side.

The disease follows the common law of contagion, usually affecting the same individual but once. There is, however, a prevalent opinion, that one of the sides may be affected at one time, and the other afterwards. The truth probably is, that, like other contagious affections, parotitis, occasionally though rarely, is twice experienced; and, when it is so, it is reasonably to be expected, that the glands least affected in the first instance, will be most so, in the second. In all contagious diseases, it would seem, that, when the system is not *saturated*, so to say, by the first attack, it is capable of a second. This disease usually reaches its height in about four days, and disappears in the course of eight or ten. Like *rubella*, *varicella*, and similar affections, it generally, for obvious reasons, finds its subjects in children and youth; and prevails, consecutively or simultaneously, with all the members of a family or other circle, who are capable of receiving the infection.

The local symptoms are attended with some slight febrile excitement, but usually the constitutional disturbance is not great. The only function essentially affected is the motion of the lower jaw, which is somewhat impeded by the swelling. The tenderness at the joint, and the pain produced by the use of the jaw in attempting to bite, constitute a sign nearly or quite pathognomonic of the disease.

METASTASIS.—It is a peculiarity of this disease, that, simultaneously with the subsidence of the swelling on one side of the neck, the *testis* in the male and the *mamma* in the female, on that side, swell and become tender. This transference of the disease is commonly, perhaps always, the consequence of taking cold. It may take place on one side only, or on both, according to the degree of

exposure, and the severity of the case. In rare instances, after the metastatic swelling has past away in the male, the gland has become atrophied. In general, however, the secondary inflammation ceases, like the primary, without the supervention of any permanent evil. In most instances, the pain in the part is neither severe nor long-continued; but, under unfavorable circumstances, the trouble has become serious, and, in the male, the extirpation of the affected gland has occasionally been the resort, to prevent a fatal result. With proper treatment, however, this operation is never necessary.

There is sometimes another metastasis of this disease. The transference is to the brain; and this may be either directly from the glands of the neck, or from the *testes* or *mammæ*. It is said, too, that the inflammation sometimes recedes from the glands secondarily affected to those of the neck; and that there may be two or three oscillations between the primary location and the secondary; but this, we are sure, is, at most, of very infrequent occurrence. The metastasis to the brain is attended with a good deal of peril, but fortunately is not often experienced.

**TREATMENT.**—Mild diaphoretics should be freely used, such as a tea of composition, *asclepias tuberosa*, *hedeoma pulegioides*, or some species of mint or balm. Warm flannels, or, what is better, fomentations may be applied to the inflamed portions of the neck. The more a general perspiration is maintained upon the whole body, by the use of diluent drinks, and the more an exudation particularly from the surface of the swelling is created, the sooner will the specific virus be removed, and the inflammation terminated. The bowels should be kept free by the use of either enemata or gently laxative medicines.

When the disease is fairly retrocedent, a more active cathartic may be administered. In this case, no agent is superior to the *leptandra*, *virginica*. Indeed, on account of its tonic and antifebrile character, it is equally good as a laxative in this, and in other diseases. A careless washing of the hands and face in cold water, and other exposures to cold, should be avoided. They endanger a metastasis.

Should a metastasis take place, febrile symptoms will arise, and they may be considerable. In such a case, an emetic of *lobelia*



inflata, or something equivalent, is desirable. More active diaphoretics or common vegetable fever powders should be given ; and the patient should generally be kept quiet in bed.

To discuss the secondary inflammation almost any anti-phlogistic and discutient application is of service. We, however, regard the following as unparelled. Take common beans and the leaves of the verbascum thapsus ; boil and stir them together, till a pulpy mass is formed ; then mingle a small quantity of pulverized ulmus fulva ; make of the mixture a poultice ; and apply it warm. It extracts the virus concentrated in the part affected, and speedily removes the inflammation. If necessary, in case of the male, a suspensory bag may be used, for a season, after he is able to assume the upright posture. Its mechanical support will be a relief, while the parts are debilitated.

If the brain becomes affected, delirium, convulsions, and other alarming symptoms may be the consequence. In this condition of things, the most active constitutional treatment must be immediately resorted to. Repeated emetics, vapor baths, and continued diaphoretics are indicated. It will, besides, be desirable to attempt to return the disease to its primary locality, or even to its secondary ; since either of its other forms is to be preferred to phrenitis. To effect a retrocession, fomentations, stimulating liniments, and even irritants and vesicants, as sinipisms or other agents, may be locally applied. Fortunately, this phrenic form of the disease is seldom experienced ; and, in general, parotitis is a comparatively unimportant disease.

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## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

We are not inclined to be importunate, yet we do feel that the present is an important crisis,—a crisis involving, to a very great extent, the success or defeat of the Physio-Medical Reform. We would strongly and earnestly urge, upon our friends, the importance of Prof. Parritt's appeal in our last number ; and we fervently hope the *reasons presented* may be duly weighed, and the course of action pointed out promptly adopted. If the present wants of our In-



stitution are promptly supplied, and our banner is but "given to the breeze," we *shall be* successful. If none but individual interests were involved in this enterprise, we should be the last to urge its claims, or sanction their presentation.

But the interests of Reform in medicine, in the New England States, have become so intimately blended, with the success of this "only Reformed School" in the East, that the failure of the latter, must seriously jeopardize the success of the former. Our wants are few, our demands far from exorbitant. We have struggled against "wind and tide," incurred the censure of friends at home, excited the opposition of foes abroad, spent our time, contributed from our funds; and we certainly ought now, without being charged with attaching *too much* importance to our efforts, however feeble, to be permitted to ask this simple question *Cui bono?* Certainly not our own. Had we contemplated our private interests and happiness alone, we surely should have abandoned the enterprise long ago. But we do not wish to complain. Blest with a reasonable share of *protuberance* near the crown of the head, we are not easily discouraged; and, if we sometimes do grow *weary*, we never despair. Our cause is onward; and, *deo volente*, we do not purpose to be defeated in our efforts.

But individual effort *alone*, at least, postpones success. If now, our efforts can be seconded by liberal contributions for the purpose of erecting a suitable College edifice, our success will be immediate—and the reformed practitioners in New England will be enabled, with pride, to point to an Institution devoted to the interests of their common cause, second to none in the Union. The advantages of such an Institution will be of incalculable advantage, and every practitioner will feel its benign influence.

At a recent meeting of our Board of Trustees, a plan of action was determined on, for securing the means to erect the necessary College buildings; and, in order to carry out the plan, it becomes necessary to obtain an increased subscription. The Board have appointed Prof. Parritt their agent, who will shortly visit various portions of New England, on his mission. He will address the friends of Reform in the various cities, and publicly present the claims, not only of the Institution in particular, but of reform in general.

Let not his appeal be a *fruitless* one. Understanding the true position of our College affairs, and deeply aware of the circumstances which bear upon our success, he will be prepared to give any information which may be necessary, and to transact any business relating to the interests of the Institution. We would suggest the propriety, that our friends write to him here at Worcester, giving such information and making such suggestions, as will enable him to adapt his course to the interests of Reform.

Inasmuch as this agency is, on his part, a *gratuitous* effort, we would most earnestly urge our friends to render his expenditure of time and *money* as light as possible. A good and efficient Lecturer, who understands and can present the true questions at issue in our *medical controversy*, cannot fail to increase the interest of community, in the Physo-Medical System. Even if our practitioners were to defray the expense of his travelling fees, &c., to their various places of residence, they could not but be amply repaid for their expenditure, in the strong impression which he will make in favor of "*our practice*." Who will avail themselves of this opportunity? Inasmuch as his stay in New England is limited, it is very desirable, that arrangements of this kind be promptly entered into.

We would farther observe, that it is important, not only to obtain *new* but to collect the *old* subscriptions. Our agent will attend to the collection of the funds which have already been subscribed. Will our friends hold themselves in readiness, if not to increase their former subscriptions, at least to liquidate them? And now, remember "He that soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully." Contribute liberally to promote the interests of Reform, and you will secure your own success.

Nor are physicians the only class of men, who are interested, or whose aid we expect to secure. Every man in community is interested, and we appeal to him, not by the common motives of interest, but by the sick man on his bed of anguish,—by the friends sacrificed to a pernicious medical Oligarchy,—by suffering humanity,—to come forth and aid in one of the noblest reforms, which ever interested the philanthropy of man.

Prof. Parritt, also, is duly authorized to solicit subscriptions, and collect funds for the "Journal." We feel some delicacy in urging the claims of this paper, not because we conceive it to be unworthy of patronage, but because *we are its editor*. Indeed the flattering notices of the present volume, which have appeared, and the *very kind* expressions of friends in private communications, fully evidence its reputation and value. We feel however, a hesitation in recommending it to the patronage of the public, not because we think it *undeserving*, but because our own interests are more intimately connected with its circulation. We shall, hence, leave its claims to be presented by Prof. Parritt, who will, no doubt, do *it* and *us* justice.

We do not wish to moralize and draw *prosy* conclusions; but we cannot resist the temptation, to say in this connection, that there is a satisfaction in the consciousness of having promoted, by our efforts, any benevolent enterprise; and what enterprise can better deserve our attention than reform in medicine. If now, by your contributions, you give permanency to our efforts, and thus secure the interests of reform, you will have the high gratification of having aided in breaking the shackles of medical despotism, and giving free scope to innocent and sanative medication.

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### COD-LIVER OIL.

Our friend Dickens inquires our opinion in regard to the efficacy of this article in phthisis. We answer, we have used it and witnessed its effects in numerous instances and under a variety of circumstances; and, so far as we are authorized to decide from the process of inductive reasoning, we must say, we think it sometimes of very decided benefit in scrofulous and tuberculous diseases, when not too far advanced. In the third and generally in the second stage of phthisis, we do not believe it can be relied on to effect a cure. In cases of ordinary inflammation, whether of the parenchyma of the lungs or of the mucous membrane, we think it of no valuable service whatever, but rather injurious. Hence, the importance of discrimination in regard to its employment.



If its *modus operandi* upon the system is inquired after, we remark, our theory is not yet complete. We may say more, by and by. At present we will only suggest, it is known to be a matter of fact, that, in disease, the adipose tissue of the system is used instead of food for vital purposes, when the stomach is disqualified for the act of digestion. Now, inasmuch as cod-liver oil is of the nature of adipose tissue, may it not be appropriated in a similar manner? And may it not supply a deficiency existing in the system, under the influence of tuberculous affections? We believe it may, but we want more light.

As to the question, whether very much depends on the purity of the article, we confess we are rather skeptical. We have, for a considerable time, been of the opinion, that, probably, whale or almost any kind of fish oil, if not rancid nor adulterated with injurious ingredients, is probably of about the same efficacy. Since forming this opinion, we have met with an extract from the "Medical Gazette," which alludes to nine cases treated with various kinds of fish oil. The extract then says,

"I applied to my oilman for some specimens of the purest and sweetest lamp oil, and procured several varieties of whale and seal oil, decidedly fishy and rank in flavor, but not rancid, or oxydized, or putrescent. In fact, the flavor of the oil commonly called 'southern oil,' the produce of the black whale, which I chiefly employed, is not disagreeable to any one who is free from fancies on the subject; and, if mixed with three or four parts of almond oil, is not a whit more offensive to the taste than the common oleum jecoris aselli."

After this, the writer attempts to prove the efficacy of these oils in the cure of disease; and adds,

"I would therefore suggest, that it is well worth while to make a fair experiment on a large scale, to determine whether it is fish oil in general that does the good, or only the oil of the cod's liver. If, as I believe, almost any kind of fish oil will answer the purpose, then many of the poor will be able to use the cheaper kinds, who could not afford the nicer but more costly cod-liver oil."

We think this whole subject well worthy the careful examination of the scientific and discriminating portion of the profession and the community.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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Communications.

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LOBELINA.

BY PROF. E. M. PARRITT, M. D.

The extraction and concentration of the medical properties of plants has long attracted the attention of the pharmacist; and many a noisome dose, by his skill, has been so diminished in magnitude and so modified in taste, as to become *almost* agreeable. No department of chemical knowledge is fraught with so much of interest. The most satisfactory results and the most unexpected discoveries have never failed to reward the diligent analyst who has conducted his experiments with ordinary skill and judgment.

The vegeto-alkalies or *alkaloids* are, of all proximate principles, the most energetic in their action on the animal economy. In consequence of this energy of action, and the minuteness of the dose required to produce their specific effects, they are peculiarly fitted for the purposes of the physician. Since they are *quasi-elementary* substances with markedly alkaline characters, affecting the test-paper, in some instances, and in all forming crystallizable compounds with acids whether *organic* or *inorganic*, it will be at once perceived that the *solvents* employed *must be acid*.

With these preliminary remarks, I shall give in detail the process for obtaining lobelina, one of the most important of these vegeto-alkalies. I shall add such explanations and remarks, as will effectually enable even the *novitiate* to succeed in his manipulations. A large and expensive apparatus is entirely unnecessary, and an ordinary share of mechanical skill will enable the operator to adapt various articles of his office to his purposes. I will here make a remark which I conceive to be of some importance to those who are deterred from experimenting by the want of *extensive* apparatus. *All our most complicated manipulations require the most simple instruments.* Taste and convenience have greatly multiplied the instruments of the laboratory, in *known operations*; but *investigation*, with her few simple tubes and plates of glass, rejects them all, when she makes her incursions into the *arcana* of Nature.

The first step in the process, is the preparation of the solvent, by which we shall extract, from the crude lobelia, its alkaloidal principle. This principle is always associated with an acid, which probably is peculiar to the lobeliaceæ, and hence called lobelic acid by Pereira. It exists, therefore, in the plant as a *lobeliate* of *lobelina*. We must employ an acid which will detach the lobelina from this connection. In order to do this, to any given quantity of alcohol of not less than 80 per cent, add one eighth part of good acetic acid. I do not mean vinegar, which is nothing more than a very dilute solution of acetic acid, containing an abundance of foreign matter. Take of the seeds of lobelia, finely pulverized, a quantity sufficient to saturate the alcohol employed. Place the ingredients, thus prepared, into a glass vessel of sufficient dimensions, and macerate until all the properties of the seeds are extracted.



Alcohol is a solvent of almost unlimited range. It takes up, from the seeds, a great number of proximate principles. The extraction of the lobeliate of lobelina once effected by the alcohol, the acetic acid, in virtue of its superior affinity, detaches the lobelic acid, and unites with the lobelia, forming the acetate of lobelina. We thus have, at the end of the process before detailed, a mechanical mixture of the acetate of lobelina, and the alcohol holding in solution a volatile oil on which its acridity depends, resin, gum, &c., &c.

Before describing the next step in the process, I wish to make some few remarks on the application of heat to glass vessels. No part of the process embarrasses the tyro so much as this. Glass is a bad conductor of heat ; and fracture is the consequence of its unequal expansions. To illustrate, if a strip of window glass, two inches in length and half an inch wide, be held, so that one half of it shall be exposed to the flame of a candle, the part, thus heated by the immediate influence of the flame, fails to transmit the heat to the adjacent portions. But its own mass becomes expanded, in consequence of the elevation of temperature ; and, in expanding, *tears away* from the cooler portion. If, however, we apply the heat generally, so as to produce equal expansion throughout its whole extent, there will be no danger of fracture. Again, if we apply heat *rapidly* to a thick glass vessel, as a bottle or *tincture*, the exterior surface becomes expanded by the direct application of the heat, whilst the interior surface, to which the heat has not yet been conducted, retains its former dimensions. Hence fracture must result from the unequal magnitude of the adjacent surfaces. All glass ware, therefore, designed for the reception of warm liquids, or in which we propose to make decoctions, conduct evaporation, &c., should be as light (the walls thin) as is consistent with strength. For the thin ware readily assumes equality of temperature, and admits of the direct application of heat. In the absence of proper vessels, others may be substituted, requiring however a little more care in their management ; for *any glass vessel* may be heated to any degree short of fusion, without danger of fracture, *if the heat be applied gradually*.

Since the next step in our manipulations requires the process of

evaporation in a glass vessel, and presuming that all may not have *beaker glasses* at their command, I will take the liberty to point out a substitute which *is* within the reach of every one. Take a tincture of sufficient size to hold a quantity equal to twice the amount of fluid to be evaporated; and, by means of a cross-piece, fit it into an iron pot firmly. Fill the pot with *cold* water, until within two or three inches of the neck of the tincture. We thus shall have our tincture immersed in the *extemporaneous* but *efficient* water bath, and can apply the heat of an ordinary fire with perfect safety.

We shall now proceed to the second step. Carefully pour off the supernatant liquid, and add, to the sediment which is left behind, a small quantity of the solvent to extract all the virtues from the seeds, if any yet remain. Pour the decanted liquor into the tincture, in the water bath, and evaporate until the quantity, not evaporated, shall slightly exceed the acetic acid first employed. When finished, set the whole aside to cool. If, when hot, the tincture be removed from the pot, and set with its heated contents on any *cold* or *conducting* surface, fracture will be the consequence. More glass ware is broken in *cooling* than in *being heated*. A few slips of wood *whittled* to a point, to serve as stirrers, if dropped through the neck of the tincture, will very much facilitate the process of evaporation. The *points* seem to furnish the nuclei whence ebullition proceeds.

By this process we expel the alcohol, and with it the *volatile acrid principles*. I shall have occasion to refer to this fact in my remarks on the *modus operandi* of lobelia. The acetate of lobelina, with other matters, remains in the tincture.

To the syrup, thus obtained, add an equal quantity of pure distilled water. Rain water which has been filtered will answer. Agitate them thoroughly, and add finely pulverized carbonate of magnesia (the magnesia alba of the shops), until all effervescence ceases. The magnesia should be added in small quantities, and the liquid agitated after each addition. When finished, set it aside until the sediment has separated from the liquid portion.

In this last process the following reactions take place. The alcohol and volatile principles are expelled by evaporation. The

acetate of lobelina, with other matters soluble in alcohol, are left behind. On the addition of the water, the resins, oils, and other matters not soluble in this menstruum, are precipitated; but the acetate of lobelina, a small quantity of coloring matter, &c., being soluble in water, are held in solution. On the addition of the carbonate of magnesia, the acetic acid, having a stronger affinity for the magnesia than for the lobelina, unites with it, forming the acetate of magnesia, while the lobelina and carbonic acid are thus set free. The former, being soluble in water, remains in solution, whilst the latter escapes, giving rise to effervescence. This will be understood by inspecting the following diagram.

Acetate of Lobelina,	{ Lobelina,—free, and remains in solution.	} Acetate of Mag., precipitated.
	{ Acetic Acid,	
Carb. of Magnesia,	{ Magnesia,	
	{ Carbonic Acid,—free, escapes, causing effervescence.	

After a complete precipitation of all the solid matter has taken place, carefully pour off and filter the wine-colored liquid. This is the watery solution of lobelina, and what I propose to name *Aqua lobelinæ*.

For the benefit of those who may not have other information at command, I will add a few practical remarks on *filtering*. When any finely divided matter is diffused through a liquid, if its specific gravity be greater than that of the medium in which it is suspended, it will sink to the bottom. and may be easily separated by decantation. The acetate of magnesia, in our process, furnishes a good example. But, if its specific gravity be nearly equal to the liquid, it will remain suspended, and can then only be separated by filtration. The only apparatus necessary, is a funnel (I much prefer glass), some bibulous paper, and a tincture, or any bottle to receive the filtered liquid. The paper should be as free from *size* as possible, and *white*. Let us suppose we have selected a piece of paper of sufficient size, and folded it so as to make it assume, when partially opened out, the form of a cone. Place this in the funnel, and your funnel in the neck of your tincture or bottle. Carefully pour your liquid into the paper in the funnel, and permit it to percolate through, drop by drop. By this process, all the mi-



nute particles of matter, suspended in the liquid, and all the oils will be removed. Our aqua lobelinæ thus prepared, is, (if the process has been carefully and *neatly* conducted,) a beautiful claret-colored liquid, free from the intensely acrid taste of the tincture or decoction, yet possessing all their emetic, diaphoretic, expectorant, and relaxant properties.

The next step, in our process, is the separation of the lobelina from its aqueous solution. This is effected with sulphuric ether. From the frequent adulterations to which this article is subjected by unprincipled dealers, it is difficult to state the amount necessary. Good ether will not mix with water largely; ten parts of water being required to take up one of ether. Having a much less specific gravity, it soon separates, when agitated with water, forming a distinct stratum on its surface. As it is commonly obtained, however, largely adulterated with alcohol, the experimenter will be mortified to find all his ether disappear on agitation with water. If good, we add a quantity of ether equal to half the aqueous solution of lobelina. Agitate frequently, and permit it to stand several hours. Carefully pour off the supernatant ether, and permit it to evaporate spontaneously. The residue, after this, is lobelina with a small amount of coloring matter. Thus obtained, it is about of the consistence and color of honey from the recent comb. It has a peculiar aromatic odor; and, when dropped on the tongue, at first, leaves no very decided impression. But soon, diffusing itself over the mucous membrane of the mouth, it leaves that peculiar scratching sensation in the fauces and pharynx, accompanied with a feeling of heat in the epigastric region, so characteristic of lobelia.

I shall add a few general remarks on the whole process. The lobelina, in connection with its native acid, cannot be prepared. The affinities are so extremely feeble as to be detached by the slightest predisposing cause. But the lobelina, when not in connection with some acid, undergoes decomposition by the heat necessary to evaporate the alcohol. Hence the acetic acid, not only acts as a solvent, but prevents the decomposition which would necessarily result.

Lobelina is soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. The ether will readily separate it from its aqueous solution, but not from its alco-

holic solution. The alcohol must, therefore, be expelled by evaporation. The stratum of ether, which settles on the surface of the aqueous solution after agitation, is the ethereal solution of lobelina, *Solutio Ætherea Lobelinæ*. This must be permitted to evaporate spontaneously, or by a *very gentle* heat. The ether being volatile soon evaporates, and leaves the lobelina as before described. If heat be applied to expedite the evaporation of the ether, it must be done with a water bath, and with extreme caution. The vapor of ether is characterized by two prominent traits, great density, and high inflammability. In virtue of its density, the vapor descends, and, if it should come in contact with the source of heat, its inflammability is so great as to give rise to serious accidents.

In this process, we obtain three distinct forms of this preparation, which I feel confident must soon become *officinal*. The advantages which they possess, are their freedom from acidity, the concentration of all the *valuable* medical properties of the plant, and the smallness of the dose necessary to produce its specific effects. The ethereal solution is more concentrated, and acts, in consequence of the volatility of the menstruum, with more energy, than the aqueous solution. Indeed, in a large majority of cases, the saturated aqueous solution will be found preferable. Still, in cases where we wish to obtain immediately the influence of the medicine, or in cases where the less concentrated forms of the preparation fail to produce their effects, I would strongly recommend the lobelina undiluted. In cases of croup, asthma, &c., where the symptoms are urgent, it will be found an invaluable adjunct.

I had intended to discuss the *modus operandi* of lobelia as a Therapeutic agent ; but a press of engagements renders this *now* impossible. In the next number of the Journal, I will give my views at length. There are certain articles, commonly administered in connection with lobelia, in its various forms, which, if I am not deceived, are absolutely incompatible ; and which, not only retard its action, but render it inert. What these agents are, and my reasons for the conclusion, will be given, as before intimated, in a future article.

## BLEEDING IN RHEUMATISM.

In Allison's Outlines of Pathology, we find the following remarks, under the head of Sub-acute and Chronic Rheumatism.

"The Acute Rheumatism cannot, probably, be much shortened by antiphlogistic remedies; and, if it were so shortened in external parts, we have good reason to think, that the risk of affection of the heart would be greatly increased."

He observes that bleeding is often the procuring cause of metastasis in rheumatism. Dr. Eberle, who is good authority in the Allopathic school, remarks, in substance, that bleeding favors metastasis to the heart; and, *with significant consistency*, under the head of "treatment," recommends *blood-letting*.

In all forms of rheumatic affections, a close attention to the history of the cases which have come under my observation, has convinced me, that, where bleeding, *in any stage*, has been employed, there is *always* more or less inflammation of the pericardium; and frequent attacks of the original form of disease are generally followed, by enlargement of the heart and by general or practical adhesion of the pericardium to the substance of that important organ.

I have a case in my mind,—which came under my notice, professionally, a few years since,—that of a young lady, some 16 or 17 years of age, who, after repeated attacks of rheumatism, in which bleeding had been submitted to, was at last attacked with a train of symptoms clearly indicating enlargement and adhesion. I stated my opinion of the case to the family, freely; but a practitioner of the Old School differed from me, urging that the dyspnoea and other symptoms were occasioned by *hepatization of the lungs*. A *post mortem* examination, in which one of my Allopathic friends assisted, confirmed the diagnosis I had made. The heart was found to be enlarged to more than one half its normal size; and, in patches all over the sack, there was found attachment to the substance of the heart. The lungs were tuberculated, but but there were no evidences of *hepatization*. The upper portion of the liver was indurated and enlarged; and a large quantity of semi-transparent matter was found adhering beneath the intercostal muscles, in the immediate vicinity of the heart.



I merely thought to refer to the opinion of Dr. Allison, and had no intention of enlarging on the subject, except to call the attention of practitioners to the fact, that one of the finest writers in England tells the world, that a fashionable remedy of theirs in rheumatic affections is no remedy at all, but the procuring cause, often, of a disease, in another locality, which, sooner or later, is the cause of suffering and death.

AMICUS.

*Middletown, N. Y.*

## PHYSO-MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Notice is hereby given that the regular Annual Meeting of the Physo-Medical Society of the State of New York, (formerly Thomsonian Botanic Medical Society,) will be held, according to adjournment, at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, on the 2nd Tuesday of June, 1850. This meeting will be one of vital importance to the Society, it being the first annual meeting, since its organization under the law of 1848, for the benefit of scientific and other Societies.

It is very desirable that the Society be fully represented from all parts of the State, as business of great importance will come before the meeting.

N. B. Let it be particularly understood, that, although the Society has changed its name, it has not, in the least degree, changed its principles. The spirit of its constitution is not changed, but adheres strictly, as it ever has done, to the principles inculcated by Samuel Thomson. Its members are the same. Those who were members formerly, are members now. Its Treasury was never in a better condition than at present. It is expected that all matters, relative to the previous distribution of funds, will be agreeably disposed of.

Under the present organization of the Society, auxiliary Societies may be formed in any part of the State, subject to the same laws and regulations, as the present State Society. It is, therefore, desirable, that all who feel an interest in the cause of medical

reform, should be present, in order that such arrangements may be made, as are necessary to organize Societies in their respective districts.

We enjoy all the privileges which can be given even to the Allopathic physicians, under the present law of the State; and shall we not use them?

A. W. RUSSELL, *Rec. Sec.*

WM. B. STANTON, *Pres.*

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

[We publish the following private letter, as a specimen of the evidence which we are frequently receiving, that the Botanic physicians of New England are not content to remain routine practitioners, but that their motto is Onward. Numerous individuals, situated like the writer, have already left their practice for a season, attended Lectures with us, and regularly graduated. And now, almost without exception, young men contemplating entering the profession, are beginning right, by devoting themselves to a three years' course of study, before becoming embarrassed with the labors and responsibilities of practical life.—*Editor.*]

PROF. NEWTON:—

DEAR SIR,—I am very happy to announce to you, that I have received two Nos. of the Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal. I am highly pleased with their appearance, and believe that they are, in every way, calculated to aid the reformed practice in its rapid progress.

Some ten years since, I entered as a student with a physician of the Old School. My means being small, I worked ten hours each day. The remainder of my time I spent in study; but, when I was informed, that I was one year advanced, I found also that my health was so poor, that it was necessary for me to suspend labor and study. Then, as I had all confidence in the Old School physicians, I applied to them for advice; and consulted the most skillful in N. H. and Me., for six months, when my case was pronounced to be consumption. Finding that poison still made me worse,

I resolved to become my own physician, and I resorted to nature's garden for my remedies. I soon found, that my health was improving, and, in three months, I was comfortably well. Since that time, I have collected quite a library of Botanic works; and, for the last three years, have been in a very extensive practice. I did design to be at Worcester, and attend the Course of Lectures this spring: but my business is such, that I must defer, until the next Term. I am well aware of the many advantages derivable from those Lectures.

There is, in an adjoining town, a reformed Physician, who, some years since, bought a work of Dr. Samuel Thomson's. Since that time, he has been in practice; but he makes that small work his only study, and, consequently does not improve with the times. I hope you will continue to urge the necessity, that reformers of medicine become better acquainted with each other, and report cases, symptoms, and treatment, which will be of interest to the profession, and the community at large.

A. W. DAM.

Parkman, March 4th, 1850.

## AMENORRHŒA.

PROF. NEWTON:—

DEAR SIR,—Should you think the following case of sufficient interest to be presented to your readers, it is at your disposal. I was called, some few months since, to see a lady, 18 years of age. I found the case to be one of amenorrhœa. It was of long standing, and the symptoms were of an aggravated nature. I therefore prescribed accordingly.

TREATMENT.—First, I gave an emetic of lobelia inflata, which freely evacuated the stomach. After this, I gave a powder composed of mandrake, (podophyllum peltatum,) grs. xij., cayenne, (capsicum annuum,) grs. viij. which acted finely. On the following day, all the urgent symptoms had subsided, and I then took the following powders. Sulphate of quinine, grs. xij., golden seal, (hydrastis



canadensis,) grs. xxix., cayenne, (capsicum,) xxxvj. I divided it into twelve equal parts ; and gave three daily.

Upon this, her strength returned, but she was left still laboring under her old disease. I then gave her a tincture of what we, down south, call stinking norries, one wine-glassful, every morning. That, in a few weeks, cured her, and she remains well up to the present time.

E. W. P., M. D.

N. B. The plant above spoken of, has never failed, in my hands, to make a permanent cure. I might say of a truth, that I have given it in a dozen cases, and I have yet to find the first one in which it has not performed a cure.

The *modus operandi* of the plant I know not ; but this I do know, that it will cure the disease.

*Chesterfield Co., Feb. 8, 1850.*

## BAY STATE MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the *Bay State Medical Reform Association* will be held at Lawrence on the 27th day of June, inst., on which occasion business of great and vital importance will be brought up for consideration. It is especially desired that all the members and practitioners, in the State and in New England, should be present ; and they are respectfully and earnestly invited to attend, and aid, by their counsels, the great cause of humanity. PROF. E. MORGAN PARRITT of OHIO will deliver an address on the present state and future prospects of the Physo-Medical system in this country. Let no one stay at home on account of *pleasure* or to save a *trifling expense*. We are called upon to make sacrifices in this cause. A crisis has arrived which demands it. Let us meet this crisis with the energy and influence which united action will insure. Let all come to the work like men, shoulder to shoulder, in solid phalanx, and thus give an impetus to the onward march of science, truth, and benevolence.

GEO. W. CHURCHILL, *Secretary*.

P. S. The place of meeting, will be announced in the *Lawrence Papers*.

## Selections.

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### IMPORTANT TRIAL.

SUPREME COURT—OTSEGO CIRCUIT: *Sherman Walker vs. Jencks S. Sprague*.—This Cause, of which we gave a brief note last week, excited much interest, in consequence of the importance of the questions involved, and the fact that it was of great moment to the medical profession, and no less so to the community.

The Cause was opened by Mr. SOUTHWORTH for Plaintiff, and the Hon. L. S. CHATFIELD for Defendant. The Defendant has been long and well known in the county of Otsego, as one of the most eminent members of the County Medical Society, and has held several important offices in the County, the duties of which he always discharged with ability. On the 23d of September, 1843, the Plaintiff, a young man twenty years of age, was riding a spirited horse near his father's, in the town of Exeter, and the bridle bits gave way and broke. The horse then left the road and ran with him into the woods so near a tree, that Plaintiff's right knee struck the tree, which instantly threw him from the horse. He was soon found in a helpless situation, and was carried to his father's house, about 160 rods distant. Dr. S., the Defendant, had been sent for, and arrived there about the same time. He examined the limb. Some of the witnesses testified that he stated, that the fracture was in the upper third of the *os femoris*, or thigh bone, near the body, and others, lower down. All agreed that the Dr. pronounced it a transverse fracture, or nearly so. The limb was extended, two splints applied, one to the outside, and one to the inside of the limb, with bandages. The testimony all agreed, that no permanent and continued extension and counter extension had been applied by the Defendant, who attended the Plaintiff about 54 days, averaging once in 3 or 4 days. The Plaintiff was then directed by the Defendant to rise from his bed and use his limb, which he attempted to do, but could not without the use of splints, bandages, and crutches, for a considerable time. Not long after, the limb was examined, and found to be considerably shorter than the other.

In the following Summer it was examined by Dr. WHITE, of Cherry Valley, and an artificial joint discovered a few inches above

the knee. Soon after, the limb was also examined by Dr. CHURCHILL, who testified that he found a cavity in front of the leg above the knee, and a convexity on the back, and that the bones overlapped, and were disunited.

In the Spring of 1847, the Plaintiff went to Worcester, Mass., and employed Dr. MARTIN, an eminent surgeon, who examined the limb, and ascertained that the fracture was oblique, and not transverse, in the lower and not the upper third,—also found that there were an overlapping of the bones, an artificial joint, and the limb from three to five inches shorter than the other. Dr. MARTIN introduced a seton between the fractured parts of the bone, which was kept there for some time; after which the fractured parts were placed in co-aptation as near as possible, without endangering the limb. Extension and counter extension, permanent and continued, were then applied.—The following Autumn the Plaintiff returned home with a limb firm and strong, but about three inches shorter than the other.

The testimony of Dr. MARTIN clearly demonstrated the absolute necessity of extension and counter extension in all cases of this character, where the patient is a muscular adult, and the fracture oblique.

The Plaintiff's father testified, that he solicited the Defendant to have counsel three or four days after the accident, and informed him that the Plaintiff was dissatisfied, and that the neighbors had advised him to get counsel; also, "that a limb was everything to a young man." To this the Defendant replied, out of humor, that there was always somebody who wanted to make mischief; and also remarked that it was a pity if he did not know as much about setting a limb as Dr. WHITE, and that the limb was doing as well as it could. No counsel was therefore employed. Several witnesses were introduced to show, that the Plaintiff frequently, while he was under the Defendant's treatment, expressed himself highly pleased with the Defendant's treatment, and believed he would get a sound limb.

The Defendant introduced, as witnesses, several physicians and surgeons, who had not examined the limb, to show, that it might been a transverse fracture; and, if so, that the treatment was proper. None, however, differed in any very essential points from Drs. MARTIN and CHURCHILL.

The entire forenoon of the 19th instant was occupied by the Counsel in their Arguments.

The Hon. S. S. BOWNE, of Rochester, addressed the Jury for the Defendant, and A. BECKER for Plaintiff.

After dinner His Honor, Justice MONSEN, charged the Jury in



a brief, clear, and able manner; and, among other things, stated, that, as the Counsel for the respective parties had agreed upon the law as it was pertaining to the case, the questions for their consideration and determination were, whether the Defendant was liable to the Plaintiff; and, if liable, for what amount; and that these were questions on which the Court should express no opinion.

The Jury thereupon retired; and, after an absence of about four hours, came into Court and rendered a verdict of \$500 damages for Plaintiff. *Ex. paper.*

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## EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CASE.

### TWO LARGE SNAKES CUT FROM THE BODY OF A LIVE WOMAN.

We have to record a most extraordinary case of disease, and an operation for its relief, attended with the most extraordinary results. It has just occurred in this city.

A Mrs. Kennedy, a woman of about forty, the wife of an Irish laborer, living at 115 Broad street, has for several years suffered greatly from ill-health. Her symptoms and complaints were singular. She was afflicted with almost constant pains, so that she could seldom or never rest in the night. She stated that she felt something running up and down in the abdomen, that she frequently experienced the creeping sensation which is called formication. These feelings were particularly distinct at the bottom of the abdominal cavity, on occasion of the daily dejections.

She had been in the Hospital, and had been treated successively for cancer of the womb, worms, contracted hydatids, and other complaints; but found no relief.

As her uneasiness and pains continued, so were the attempts to relieve her, but invariably without success. Not long since, Dr. Wight, whose office and drug store is at the corner of Purchase and Broad streets, being in attendance upon her, introduced a tube into the bowels, with a twine loop attached, with a view to satisfy her fancy, and perchance to reach and remove the cause of her trouble. Some worms were brought down; but her uneasiness and pains received but only a very partial alleviation.

About a week ago, she became subject to incontrollable uneasiness, and begged Doctor Wight to perform an operation for her relief. This he was reluctant to do, thinking it would hazard her

life, without a sufficiently certain prospect of bringing relief to her to compensate for the hazard. She declared that life was a burden; that she must die as she was, and that speedily; that she was willing to die; death would be a relief; and she might as well die in efforts for relief, as in any way. At last, Dr. Wight yielded to her importunities; and, having first been solemnly exonerated from blame, by the woman and her husband, whatever might be the result, he consented to perform the operation.

On Friday afternoon last, assisted by T. R. Owens and Surgeon J. J. M'Sheebby, he proceeded to perform the operation. He first made an incision about seven inches long along the medial line of the abdomen. He found a tumor projecting largely, about six inches in diameter and of irregular form. He opened it and found therein two snakes, one eighteen, the other fifteen inches in length. They were of a bluish green color, striped, the upper part being darker than the lower.

The tumor being removed, the woman was instantly relieved, and is now doing well. The Doctor calls the snakes *colubra viridis*. They may be seen preserved in spirits at his office. *Boston Daily Mail*.

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## H. M. PAINE'S HYDRO-ELECTRIC LIGHT.

[On this subject the Boston Post has the following remarks. *Editor.*]

After a period of six years, employed in a series of experiments, conducted upon the most philosophical principles, and continued with indefatigable perseverance, Mr. Henry M. Paine, of Worcester, has completed his "Magneto-electric Decomposer,"—an ingenious apparatus for evolving hydrogen and oxygen gases from water, by the agency of electricity, generated by mechanical means. The gases thus obtained may be used for light, heat, and motive power, and have already been practically tested for the two first named purposes on a considerable scale, with wonderful effect.

At his residence, on Tuesday evening, April 23d, Mr. Paine exhibited the operation of his invention to a number of gentlemen of Boston and Worcester, some of whom have had considerable experience in the gas business, and others have taken great interest in plans and projects, having in view the production of artificial

light at cheaper rates than it can be furnished by the means hitherto employed by gas manufacturers. Mr. Paine had his house brilliantly lighted up, although he used only one small burner for each room. The light was exceedingly strong and white, and so pure that the most delicate shades of blue and green, in some colored prints, could be instantly distinguished at a distance of several feet from the burner, (a common gas burner) which was supplied with gas from a pipe, whose diameter did not exceed one quarter of an inch.

At the same time that the light was being exhibited, the mode of using the gas for heating was also shown. A small jet of *pure hydrogen*, between two circular plates of iron, raised a few inches from the floor, was lighted; and in a few minutes an equal and genial heat was diffused throughout the apartment. Thus the astonished party had the light and heat together, supplied from the same source below, and their expressions of admiration were unbounded; nor were they abated, when they were led down into the cellar to examine the exceedingly small machine by which the gas was made. The box containing it was about 18 inches square and eight in depth. We cannot give the details of the interior of the machine, but will simply state, that, as its name indicates, it evolves magneto-electricity by purely mechanical action. From the above mentioned box there ran flat copper wires into the decomposing jar, which was about two feet in height, and six or eight inches in diameter, and partly filled with water. In this jar, by the action of the electricity just spoken of, pure hydrogen gas *alone* was formed from the water, whence it passed into two gasometers or reservoirs, about the size of a barrel each. The pole, at which oxygen gas is liberated, on this occasion passed into the ground, so that hydrogen only was evolved by the action of the machine. The process of carbonizing the hydrogen for illumination is exceedingly simple, and was open to view. It is very cheap, so much so, that Mr. Paine says, that the cost of carbonizing the gas he has burned in his house in three burners every evening for a week, has not yet amounted to *one cent*. The hydrogen is used for the general purposes of light and heat, and the oxygen can also be secured in a second jar, and may be used, with the hydrogen, to produce the "calcium light" for light-houses.

Mr. Paine has also discovered a principle by which he can regulate the quantity of electricity to be discharged into the composing jar. A large machine has recently been perfected, by Mr. Paine, of sufficient power to supply three thousand burners with gas. It is set up in the Worcester Exchange, and only occupies a space of three feet square by six in height.



One cubic foot of water will make 2100 feet of gas, and a weight of 67 lbs. falling nine feet in an hour, will make, from this larger machine, 1000 feet of gas. The apparatus can be applied to gas works of any kind, and be used with any of the gas fixtures at present.

[On the same subject, the Daily Tribune of this city gives us the following. *Editor.*]

Last Saturday evening, in company with a friend we called at the house of Mr. Henry M. Paine, on Beacon street, to see his newly discovered Gas Light, produced from *cold water*. To those who know nothing of Mr. P's discovery, this may seem ridiculous; but it is true, that he *lights and heats his whole house with cold water*. He has discovered a process of decomposing water, separating the two gases; and by the use of one he can produce the most brilliant light ever beheld, besides heat enough for all the ordinary purposes of cooking and warming. He had three jets burning; one in the entry hall, one in his parlor, and one in his sitting room. And the light surpasses any thing we ever beheld. It is a white, pure, solid, intensely bright flame, completely throwing in the shade all lights ever hitherto produced. Two jets, such as were burning in his house, would be sufficient to light a moderate sized hall every night, at an expense of the interest on the cost of the machine, (about six dollars per annum,) with only the little trouble of occasionally filling the water cistern. It will undoubtedly be used for Light Houses, for it far surpasses any thing ever yet used for that purpose. Mr. Paine placed a reflector behind the runner in the entry, and the effect was a white light, more like sun-light than anything else—so brilliant that our eyes would scarcely endure it. But this is not all; the intense heat of the flame serves for warming a room, and to cook a dinner, or for any use to which fire is ordinarily applied. And there is not only a saving of expense, but of work; and the inconvenience and care of wood, coal, and ashes, and the danger from fire are almost completely annihilated.

This is not supposition. We saw the lights, followed the pipes to the cellar, and saw the apparatus employed for the decomposition of the water; and must say, we can hardly find words to express our astonishment at the simplicity of the machine, when at the same time we think of the greatness and grandeur of the discovery. This must rank, if not above, certainly equal with the greatest discoveries and inventions of the age. Wood, and coal, and oil, and fluid, may all be dispensed with, by the use of Mr. Paine's apparatus. And, though he may meet with much opposition from those who do not know the actual value of the discovery, it *must*

come into use as fast as it becomes known. But we have no fears for him now. He has triumphed; and the result of his long and laborious struggle can be seen and realized.

Mr. P. throws open his doors, and invites his friends to call in and witness his success. Our city Aldermen were there Saturday evening, and were perfectly satisfied with what they saw, as were many others of our citizens who called that evening.

Mr. Paine has been laughed at and called a humbug by some, and bitterly opposed, and treated contemptuously by others, and heartily encouraged by only a few. He may well consider himself safe from the sneers of his enemies now. His triumph is complete. He is far above all the slanderers who have foolishly worried themselves about his character, while he was struggling against all the difficulties which are usually attendant upon labors like his; and can confidently point to what he has *accomplished*, for a retort to all the ridicule which has been heaped upon him. The city of Worcester may be proud of such a citizen—the greatest mechanical genius of the country, and the discoverer of that which proves to be of incalculable benefit. If she does not do him justice now, she will ere long be compelled to. He has labored long and manfully, bore up against all opposition, with “perseverance” for his motto; and now his joyous cry is “Eureka!”

### PAINE'S HYDRO-MAGNETIC LIGHT.

We recently saw the “Hydro-Magnetic Decomposer” of Mr. Henry M. Paine, in operation. It is a complicated and elegantly constructed machine,—rapidly converting water into its formerly supposed constituent *Hydrogen* and *Oxygen* gasses,—and thus furnishes materials for light, heat, and propulsion. Mr. Paine has not only “set the river on fire,” but seems to have demonstrated, that water is a simple, instead of a compound substance,—that hydrogen and oxygen are compound, instead of simple bodies, the former being water in solution with negative electricity, and the latter, water in solution with positive electricity, inasmuch as one electrode converts *all* the water in its jar into oxygen, and the other electrode, *all* the water in its jar into hydrogen, there being no metallic or magnetic connection between the two jars of water,—and that thus the very “under-pinning” of the present system of chemistry is about to be “knocked out” by the innovating axe of this original, ingenious, and remarkable combination of machinery. We shall see and say more of this wonderful invention and discovery hereafter, as the machine is soon to be exhibited to the public. *Cataract & Standard.*



RETENTION OF THE URINE IN THE BLADDER RELIEVED  
WITHOUT CATHETERISM.

BY M. J. J. CAZENAVE.

In the "Union Medicale" for 19th July, 1840, M. J. J. Cazenave adverts to the great difficulty which is frequently encountered in relieving, by means of the catheter, persons suffering from retention of urine in the bladder, and describes a method of treatment, which he performed and found more available than the instrumental. During the last eleven months, he has been called to eleven cases of this description; *three* were from chronic inflammation of the prostate gland, and the other *eight* were dependant on strictures. Of the latter class, three had been subjected to long and unavailing trials with the catheter; and five had not been interfered with in any way. The treatment to be described completely failed in the three prostatic cases; it likewise failed in two of those in whom the catheter had been used before M. J. J. Cazenave was called in; but in the six remaining cases—cases of complete retention of urine—it was entirely successful.—These are the facts upon which the recommendation of the treatment is based, which is thus described by the author:—

"When called to a patient laboring under complete or incomplete retention of urine, I immediately cause the large bowel to be emptied by means of an oily clyster; or I may prescribe a purgative one, if there have been no motion for fifteen or eighteen hours. When the first clyster has been returned, I make use of another, less in bulk, and of cold water. Absolute rest in bed is enjoined; and compresses soaked in cold water, or (what is better) bladders filled with roughly-pounded ice, are placed around the penis, upon the perineum, thighs, anus, and hypogastrium. If the patient do not pass more or less water after half an hour of this treatment, I have him laid on the edge of the bed, with a waterproof cloth under him, and then subject him, for twenty-five minutes, to a cold ascending douche, in a small continuous stream. At the end of this time I give another cold lavement, and introduce, into the rectum, small smooth fragments of ice. The application of refrigerants to the parts above specified is, at the same time, continued. In an hour I have generally been rewarded by success."

The author speaks with disappointment of his trials with chloroformization as an aid to catheterism. —*London Journal of Medicine.*



## ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

About the 6th of February last, an eruption of this mountain occurred, which lasted some five days. It is said to have been the largest and most splendid eruption that has occurred for many years. A new crater has been formed, and the amount of lava, or scoria, ashes and stones, was so great that it descended in streams down the sides of the mountain, extended some seven miles, and spread from one and a half to three miles wide.

In some places it was thirty feet high, resembling the embankment of a railroad. It covered thirty-two houses, one or two churches, and destroyed an immense number of vineyards and farms. The direction of this stream was on the side opposite to Naples. The roaring of the mountain was such as to disturb the whole country for many miles around. In Naples the trembling of the houses was sensibly felt, and the windows shook during the eruption; yet there was but little apprehension of danger to that city.

Immense crowds went over to the other side of the bay, from Naples, to get a nearer view of the eruption; and several accidents occurred in consequence. A young Pole was struck on the leg by a burning stone, which cut through the limb; and he died on the mountain, from loss of blood. A young American officer, son of Mr. Bayard, ex-senator of Delaware, received a blow from a falling stone, which cut his arm so that it hung suspended only by a bit of flesh. Amputation was ordered, which resulted in lockjaw and death. The ashes from the volcano were carried twenty miles. At night, during the eruption the sight was truly grand and terrific, while the immense masses of rock and red-hot ashes were thrown up amid the flames.

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## ENLARGED HEART.

Prof. Alonzo Clark, of New York, exhibited before the State Medical Society, at its recent session, an enlarged heart, weighing, at the time of its removal from the body, *fifty-seven ounces, avoirdupois*. It was taken from a young man 28 years of age, who had been troubled with most violent palpitations, &c., caused by inflammation of the pericardium, and consequent attachment to the heart. It is the largest human heart, but one, of which any account has been recorded. *Boston Med. & Surg. Journal*.

## EGYPTIAN MUMMIES.

Mr. Gliddon, the Eastern traveller, who has delivered many lectures upon the manners and customs of the Egyptians, has succeeded, after several trials, in obtaining two specimens of that ancient race ; and proposes to have the coffins, in which they were found, opened in this city, if sufficient funds can be raised to remunerate him for the great outlay incurred. One of them, who lived 1200 years B. C., say 3200 years ago, was the daughter of the high priest of Thebes, and is supposed to have jewels, &c., about her person, as was the custom of that singular and ancient race of people. The art of embalming the dead is generally thought to have been lost, or entirely forgotten ; but we are of opinion, that, should it become necessary, or a custom, proper means can *now* be had, whereby bodies could be preserved for an indefinite length of time, and entirely resist decomposition. As the subject is interesting to medical men, their encouragement should be given to such an exhibition ; and as Mr. Gliddon contemplates to give, at the opening, a lecture on mummification, it will be instructive as well as interesting. *Boston Medical & Surgical Journal.*

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## DEATH OF A CHILD BY SINAPISMS APPLIED IN MISTAKE.

Dr. Ameuille mentioned, at a late meeting of the Societe Medico-pratique, of Paris, the case of a little girl, six years of age, who, after an attack of eruptive fever, had swollen glands on each side of the neck. On the right side, resolution soon came on ; but, on the left, the swelling increased, and became painful ; a linseed poultice was ordered, and a mustard one applied by mistake. The child screamed and complained bitterly, but was obliged to keep on the poultice for three hours ; two successive sinapisms were applied after this, and the error was only discovered towards the evening. Frightful suppuration and gangrenous inflammation came on, reaching down to the sternum ; the muscles, nerves, and vessels, of the part were laid bare ; and the child sunk in spite of the most active and appropriate treatment, after having rallied a little while ; just before it expired. This may serve as an additional warning, even in cases where sinapisms are ordered, and knowingly applied. Some members said that mustard poultices should not be left on children more than ten or twelve minutes. We would say not more than five or six.—*London Lancet.*

FLORA'S COURT.

Once on a time the flowers convened  
 At Flora's welcome call,  
 And, decked in all their charms, were seen  
 In her bright banquet-hall.

Radiant with smiles, the goddess fair  
 Sat on her flower-girt throne,  
 And, wreathed amid her golden hair,  
 The bright blue iris shone.

Amaranth and myrtle formed the wreath  
 That twined around her brow,  
 And the canopy she sat beneath  
 Was a lordly cedar bough.

Her lips, where beauty lurked and love,  
 Soft silence sealed the while ;  
 Each bud and flow'ret eager strove  
 To catch her winning smile.

Anon she spake ; ner sounds of earth  
 E'er owned such golden sway,  
 Since Orpheus' lyre, of fabled worth,  
 Awoke the thrilling lay.

" Come, ask of me a boon," she said,  
 "And now it shall be given,  
 Whether earth's treasures, quickly fled,  
 Or choicest gifts of Heaven."

Then, oh, what varied gifts were sought  
 By these her vassals true ;  
 Some chose a form with more grace fraught,  
 And some a brighter hue.

The lily and the tulip fair,  
 An added tint would gain,  
 Binghamton, April 9, 1850.

And the rose asked boldly, then,  
 The garden's queen to reign.

But, last of all, that lowly flower,  
 The heart's-ease, reared its crest,  
 Nor asked for beauty, grace, or power,  
 To make its being blest.

Meekly it craved but strength to bear  
 The heat and chilly blast,  
 That still it might its verdure wear  
 When summer's reign was past.

On that meek flow'ret Flora smiled,  
 And granted its request ;  
 And ever, decked with beauty mild,  
 'Tis lingering autumn's guest.

Gentle youth, with the laughing eye,  
 And bright and sunny hair,  
 Know ye your life has an autumn nigh,  
 With frosts and blighting air ?

Then choose ye, like the humble flower  
 Whose story I have told,  
 Charms that outlive youth's fleeting hour,  
 Blooming in heat and cold.

Fair science spreads a rich repast,  
 And calls with winning voice ;  
 Go—hold her precious counsels fast,  
 And at her board rejoice.

And heavenly Wisdom—let her guide  
 Your feet through all the way,  
 Then shall ye wear the charms that hide  
 Life's dark autumnal day.

E. D. W.

RHEUMATISM AND NEURALGIA CURED.

It is said that neuralgia and rheumatism—the former in all its usual varieties—have been recently successfully cured in Paris by two or three applications of the cold *douche*, after the patient had been thrown into perspiration by the hot-air bath. The *douche* was general or local, as circumstances directed. *Water Cure Rep'r.*



## BATHING OR WASHING.

It is surprising, says Dr. Combe, in his excellent treatise on health, to what a lamentable extent this *most* important preservative and restorative of health and comfort is neglected. Most people think, if they bathe themselves once a year, it is quite sufficient; whereas, none should think of washing themselves less than once a week. If students and professional men would faithfully attend to this item of their *duty*, we should not hear them speaking so often of *bad digestion*, *ill health*, and unfitness for study; and very many who now find an untimely grave, would live to a good old age, free of those diseases that in a thousand forms prey upon the body. There is nothing that will give the system so healthful and agreeable a tone as this. Water, of tepid or blood warmth, with a flesh-brush or otherwise, should generally be used, especially by invalids. The skin should be *carefully dried* after washing, and the flannels worn next to the body should be changed. This should be faithfully repeated according to the circumstances of the individual. By this means health would be secured that in a thousand instances is now ruined.

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## Editorial.

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## DEATH BY QUACKERY.

On Sunday, March 10th, 1850, a daughter of Mr. Edward Worthington of this city, aged nearly seven months, was found to be slightly ill. In the forenoon, the parents, by advice, administered a moderate dose of castor oil, mingled with a little of the essence of peppermint. This, apparently, had a very favorable effect, and the child afterwards appeared decidedly better. In the afternoon, however, she not having entirely recovered, the neighbors advised the calling in of a physician. The parents having resided here but a few weeks, the father inquired for *the best physician* in the city, and was referred to Dr. S——.

The doctor was called at 4 o'clock, P. M. He said, the child was suffering a little from dentition ; but was not much sick, and would be well in the morning. He even treated with levity the idea, that her sickness was, at all, of a serious character. He said, however, that he would himself administer a pretty active dose of medicine, and would leave several doses more, in the shape of little white powders, which might be given every four hours. He directed, that the powders should be mingled with a little sugar, and laid on the child's tongue.

The powders were given according to direction ; and, at five o'clock the next morning, the child was dead. Some time before death, a dark brown or coffee-colored spot of the size of a twelve-and-a-half-cent piece appeared on the chest ; and two others, nearly as large, on the forehead. About the time of death, a purplish red eruption appeared extensively over the surface of the body and limbs, much after the manner of rubeola, though in patches rather more extended.

The peculiarity of this appearance induced the father to call on us early in the morning after the death of the child. We inspected the corpse ; and, at the suggestion of some one present, proposed a *post mortem* examination. This was consented to, and took place at 1 o'clock, P. M., of the same day.

The autopsy revealed the following facts. Those brown spots extended to the areolar and adipose tissues beneath the skin, and were of the same color throughout. Of one, however, we removed the adipose matter affected ; and, on leaving it, a short time, exposed to the oxygen of the atmosphere, it assumed a florid red color, or the color of arterial blood. The only internal organ exhibiting appreciable disease was the stomach. The most dependent portion of the greater *cul-de-sac* was in a state of active and violent inflammation ; and this, extending and diminishing in intensity, spread over the greater portion of the organ.

A few of the white powders, not being given to the child, were submitted by us to a chemical analysis, and demonstrably shown to be *simply calomel*. The testing process was as follows.

We adopted the various re-agents, as directed by Noad and Fresenius.

On the addition of alkalies and lime-water, the sub-oxide, (a dark-grey heavy powder,) insoluble in water, was immediately formed. On digesting, in a test tube, a new portion, with carbonate of potash, it became black, indicating, as before, the sub-chloride of mercury (calomel). After collecting this precipitate and exposing it to the flame of the blow-pipe, the presence of small globules of metallic mercury confirmed the previous tests. We employed other reagents in the *humid* way, all of which indicated uniformly the presence of calomel.

Here a question of no small importance arises. To what cause was that inflammation to be ascribed? That it could have been idiopathic disease, suddenly developed and rapidly hastening to a fatal termination, can hardly be conceived. But, *aside from the calomel*, the child had swallowed nothing which could produce it. We are then brought to the question, Could the effect be ascribed to the calomel?

Here some considerations are necessary. Calomel differs from that virulent poison, corrosive sublimate, only in the fact, that the latter contains two equivalents of chlorine, while the former contains but one, to a given proportion of mercury. In other words, double the quantity of chlorine contained in a given amount of calomel, and the article ceases to be calomel and becomes corrosive sublimate. Now, could this conversion take place in the human stomach? On this point, the United States Dispensatory under the head of "*Pilulæ Hydrargyri*," says, "According to M. Mialhe, mercury is slowly converted into corrosive sublimate, in the stomach, under the combined agency of air and chloride of sodium." Again, the same authority, under the head of "*Hydrargyri Chloridum Mite*," says, "According to M. Mialhe, calomel is in part converted into corrosive sublimate and metallic mercury, by muriate of ammonia, and by the chlorides of sodium and potassium, even at the temperature of the body; and hence he believes, that the conversion may take place in the *primæ viæ*. Popular belief coincides with M. Mialhe's views, in regard to the power of common salt, of increasing the activity of calomel. More recently M. Mialhe has extended his observations, and now believes, that all the preparations of mercury produce a certain quantity of corrosive



sublimate, by reacting with solutions of the chlorides of potassium, sodium, and ammonium. The deutoxide and similarly constituted compounds are most prone to this change. Even metallic mercury, digested with the chlorides named, is partly converted, under the influence of air, into corrosive sublimate."

With such authority before us, it cannot be doubted, that, in the case of this child, the calomel given was actually converted, in the stomach, into corrosive sublimate. This supposition is rendered doubly credible, by the fact, that she was a *nursing* child; and a considerable amount of chlorine is contained in the milk received from the mother. We hesitate not, therefore, to declare our belief, that this was strictly a case of death by *poison* prescribed and given under the name of *medicine*.

Queries. Have the community a moral right to patronize and encourage a mode of medical practice, the results of which are thus *directly murderous*? Again, would it not be well to revive the *primary and true* application of the term *quack*,—it being derived from the German word *quecksilber*, signifying quicksilver, and originally applied to one who used quicksilver or mercury as a medicine?

## MEDICAL RECIPES.

Dr. David Forshee of Warwick, N. Y., in a letter addressed to us, March 11th, 1850, says, among other things, "I feel anxious to see, among our medical reformers, an exhibition of their discoveries in regard to the best treatment of bad cases of disease. I, therefore, send you the following.

"*For Dysentery*.—Take of sweet milk 1 pt., of melted mutton tallow 1 table-spoonful, of molasses 2 or 3 do. Heat the mixture to the boiling point; and afterwards, when it is sufficiently cool, drink freely. Use it also *per enema*, if necessary.

"*For Cancer*.—Make a tea of buck-thorn berries. Drink, as the stomach will bear, and wash the cancer with the same."

DADD'S REFORMED VETERINARY ART, AND DICTIONARY,  
BOSTON 1850.

This is the title of a new work recently laid upon our table by the author. We regret that a press of professional duties has so imperiously demanded our time and attention that we have, as yet, only been able to give it a cursory perusal.

That it is a work of no ordinary merit, and a valuable contribution to the literature of the veterinary surgeon, will be sufficiently evidenced to any one who will take the trouble to peruse it. Exhibiting, in a very concise form, the Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse, the author has presented some points of interest to the student of Comparative Anatomy, and certainly many of value to the student of Human Physiology.

But the most attractive part, because the most practical, is the "Dictionary of the Veterinary Art," occupying a little less than one half of the volume. The form of a Dictionary has been adopted for the sake of convenience. In this, all the diseases, their symptoms and treatment—all the anatomical and other terms peculiar to the profession are given, accompanied with such explanations as render them intelligible even to the most ordinary understanding.

We repeat,—it is well worth a place in the library, and a valuable contribution to the veterinary art.

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## ASTONISHING IMPROVEMENTS.

To the wakeful and discerning inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow, it is sometimes not a little amusing to witness the astonishment depicted on the countenance and expressed in the language of Rip Van Winkle, as he wakes up from his sleep of twenty years, and looks around on the improvements which the world has undergone during his protracted somnolence.

At a recent meeting of the Worcester District Medical Society (Allopathic), the question of astringent and styptic agents being

under consideration, it was suggested by one member, that the *lycopus virginicus* [common bugle] was valuable for those properties. This seemed to excite the amasement of almost every member. One, however, had recently seen a short article on the subject, by a very late writer. This was produced, and read. The doctrine taught was so novel and unexpected, as to awaken not a little surprise and curiosity. Free remarks followed ; from which it appeared, that the remedy had never been heard of before, but all thought it well deserved a trial.

We could hardly refrain from laughing to ourselves, as we reflected, that, if these ignoramuses had not been too self-conceited to read Botanic authors, they might have learnt these marvellous truths, *twenty years since*.

Our risibles have been nearly as much excited of late, in reading the following article from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. It seems, that our Allopathic friends have, at length, found out, that there are some purposes for which capsicum [cayenne] is valuable. This is wonderful, and the information is a splendid contribution to medical science ! It is now a far different matter from what it was when the knowledge was limited to Botanic physicians. It was then, of course, nothing but the most *arrant quackery*. Truly, a treasure more valuable than the philosopher's stone has now been found. Hereafter, if literally, other metals are not changed into gold, yet black and white, quackery and science can, at any time, be made convertible terms.

“ *Chilblains and Toothache*.—Dr. A. Turnbull, in the last number of the Journal of Pharmacy, mentions that he has, with a concentrated tinct. of capsicum, been able to treat successfully those troublesome and distressing affections, chilblains and toothache. For the treatment of the former, his plan is, to wet a piece of flannel or sponge with the tincture, and rub it over the parts affected, until a tingling sensation is produced, and to repeat it as occasion may require. Frequently, one application is sufficient to cure. For the toothache, a drop or two, put on cotton wool and applied to the affected part of the tooth, will give immediate relief. The formula recommended is as follows, viz : R. Capsici baccarum, 4 oz. ; Spirits vini rect. 12 oz. ; misce, macera per dies septem et cola.”



## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The Anniversary of this Institution will occur on Wednesday, June 12th, 1850. The services will commence at 11 o'clock, A. M. The Address will be delivered by Prof. E. M. Parritt, at the close of which will be the ceremony of conferring the degrees, by the President of the Institution. The occasion will be one of general interest, and, it is expected, will be numerously attended.

The examination of the candidates for graduation will take place before the Faculty and Board of Censors, on Tuesday the day previous, at 2 o'clock, P. M. At this service, physicians and other friends interested, are invited to be present.

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## OUR PRESENT LECTURE TERM.

We take great pleasure in referring to the character and attainments of our present medical Class. The existing pressure in the money matters of the country, has prevented, from attendance, some 15 or 20, who had determined to be here, and the most of whom had said, *unequivocally*, that they should be here, this Term. The Class numbers just the same as that of the last year. It is no disparagement, however, to former Classes to say, that we have never before had manifested, in the Lecture room, so deep and general an interest to become acquainted with what is strictly *the philosophy of medicine*. The desire to learn the anatomy and physiology of the system, the pathology and true theory of disease, the *modus operandi* of remedies, the doctrines of organic chemistry, and the chemical or vital relation of medicinal agents to the human tissues has been marked and irrepressible.

The Class, with 2 or 3 exceptions, are young men who have not become embarrassed with practice, and who are determined to pursue a regular three-years course of study, before assuming the responsibilities of the profession. They seek not simply to be dubbed with the title of M. D. They manifest, that the height of their ambition is, as it should be, to become workmen who need not to be ashamed. A few only will complete their studies, at the end of

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this Term. The rest anticipate a future manifestation of their interest in the instructions which they are now receiving, by their return, in due time, to wait on similar instructions during the next Course of Lectures.

Our prospects were never so encouraging, nor our hopes so much elevated, in regard to the future success of the Institution, as at the present time.

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### DR. MATTSON'S NEW WORK.

We learn from Dr. Mattson, who has just been on a visit to our city, that he is preparing, for the press, a new edition of his "American Vegetable Practice," which, as most of our readers know, has already passed through two very large editions. The new work is to be thoroughly revised and remodelled, and rendered, in every way, worthy of an intelligent and discriminating profession.

It will be the object of the writer to develope, still more fully, the almost unbounded resources of the vegetable Materia Medica, and to give full and explicit directions for the best mode of preparing and using vegetable remedies in the treatment of acute and chronic diseases. We understand that large additions will be made to the Materia Medica, while the department of Theory and Practice will receive a careful and extensive revision, and the most efficient method of relieving the diseases incident to the human family will be pointed out in a faithful and elaborate manner.

The work will be enriched with a large number of engraved and other illustrations, which cannot fail to add much to its interest and value. Indeed, we have the assurance, that a great deal of valuable information, on a variety of topics, deeply interesting to the people, as well as important to the physician, will be introduced into the pages of this new edition. Dr. Mattson's work, thus far, has been received with favor. In preparing the new edition, he will avail himself of the knowledge which he has since accumulated, by years of careful practical observation, and patient investigation. We, therefore, indulge the belief, that he will produce a

work creditable to medical literature, and to the common cause of medical reform.

The work will, in due time, be announced in the Journal. Meanwhile, we are requested to state, that all *prepaid* letters in relation to the forthcoming edition, directed to Dr. M. Mattson, Boston, Mass., will receive prompt attention. Those desiring agencies for particular States, and wishing to contract for a large number of copies, will do well to make an early application.

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### ALLOPATHIC SCIENCE VERSUS BOTANIC QUACKERY.

A few weeks since, an incident occurred, about eight miles from this city, beautifully illustrative of the superior professional tact of the Allopathic portion of our medical brethren. In a fit of insanity, a lady being resolved on suicide, found the means of cutting her own throat. Her condition was very soon discovered, and a messenger was immediately dispatched for an Allopathic physician of long practice and considerable reputation. Living only at the distance of a mile and a fraction, he soon arrived. His patient, however, was evidently dead, some little time before his arrival; but, inasmuch as there might be reason for a shadow of doubt, he thought best fairly to test the question of the possibility of resuscitating her, and therefore, with his lancet, *opened a vein*. *Most unfortunately*, there was no blood left to run, and so he could not *bleed her* into life. Bleeding, says our old friend, the Hon. Dr. Childs, *is a stimulant*, and should be employed only when it acts as such. What a pity, that, in this case, the physician did not reach his patient before the jugular veins had emptied out the whole of the vital fluid! Had he done so, he might have availed himself of the *powerfully stimulating* effect of *letting blood* from the arm. This, of course, is not to be called *quackery*, as that attaches only to *Botanic* physicians. We, therefore, call it *skience*.



NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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Communications.

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MODUS OPERANDI OF LOBELIA.

BY PROF. E. M. PARRITT.

I propose, in the present article, to present a rationale for the action of lobelia on the animal economy, in hopes, by so doing, to afford a safe criterion by which to estimate its effects, and to avoid the embarrassment occasionally attendant on its exhibition. How far I shall succeed, the sequel must determine.

Whatever may be the exciting causes, vomiting is due to a specific action of the stomach, and the consent of certain muscles of

the thorax and abdomen. Some have regarded the stomach as entirely passive in the process of vomiting, and its own contractions as having no agency in expelling its contents. In describing the mechanism of vomiting, they represent the stomach as being in a relaxed flaccid state, and the expulsion of its contents as due to the mechanical compression, to which it is subjected, between the diaphragm, and the viscera, forced upward by the contraction of the abdominal muscles.<sup>1</sup> In order to have clear conceptions of the functions performed by the respective organs implicated in the process of vomiting, it will be necessary to enter somewhat into detail. At the commencement of the effort, the larynx is closed spasmodically. The air in the lungs, thus prevented from escaping, presents resistance to the upper surface of the diaphragm, and prevents its farther ascent into the thoracic cavity. Hence the diaphragm becomes a fixed plane or slightly concave surface, against which the stomach is compressed with more or less force, by the contents of the abdomen, urged upward by the simultaneous contraction of the abdominal muscles. Coincident with these muscular contractions, the pharynx being drawn up as in the process of deglutition, the cardiac orifice of the stomach is thereby opened, thus forming one continuous cavity extending from this viscus to the mouth, through which its contents are expelled, with a force proportionate to the compression on its walls.

Those who reject the agency of the contraction of the muscular coats of the stomach, and who regard this organ as passive in the process of emesis, conceive these muscular contractions to be incompatible with the dilatation of its cardiac orifice, and hence conceive its flaccid condition, (which, by a mere elevation of the œsophagus, permits the necessary expansion of this opening,) as an indispensable condition of the organ. Thus, if to an elastic bag, partially filled with liquids, an elastic tube be attached opening into it, we enlarge the orifice in the bag by pulling upon the tube.

It seems to me, however, that the illustration is extremely unhappy, and one moment's thought will show the conclusion to be false. Indeed, muscular contraction of the tunics of the stomach would

<sup>1</sup> Cyclopædia of Prac. Med. Vol. I. p. 778.

tend immediately to expand the cardiac orifice. If we conceive of an elastic circular orifice surrounded by muscular structures whose points of attachment are exterior to the periphery of the opening, then it follows, that any contraction of the muscles must diminish the distance between the boundary of the orifice and the points of attachment. But, since these points of attachment are in the same plane, and exterior to the circumference of the orifice, surrounding it in all directions, any contraction must be followed by an enlargement of the orifice. Contraction of the muscular tunics of the stomach, therefore, instead of being an obstacle to the dilatation of this orifice—an *indispensable requisite* in emesis—tends directly to secure this *necessary* condition of the œsophageal opening.

Again, vomiting has been produced in animals after removing the abdominal muscles, thus preventing the possibility of mechanical compression, and leaving the muscular contractions alone to void its contents.<sup>2</sup> That its muscular tunics contract with sufficient energy to expel its ingesta is abundantly evidenced, by its forcibly triturating and blending together the food in the process of digestion, bringing every portion of it in contact with the parietes of the stomach. This is affected by the alternate contraction and relaxation of its muscular fasciculi.<sup>3</sup>

Emesis, therefore, is due, not only to the compression to which the stomach is subjected between the diaphragm and the abdominal viscera, but to contractions of the muscular coats of the stomach itself acting synchronously with the muscles of respiration, at the moment when the glottis is closed. Even those who advocate the passivity of the stomach, are compelled to admit the agency of muscular contraction in *direct emetics*.<sup>4</sup>

But muscular exertion, wherever it exists, is due to nervous influence, nor can we produce vomiting, however much we may goad the stomach with emetics, *in cases where the nervous energy is suspended*.<sup>5</sup> The only question, therefore, which now demands our attention is, Does the emetic substance exert its exciting influence on the sentient extremities of the nerves of the stomach itself, thence communicating with the brain, and sympathetically calling

<sup>2</sup> Sir Charles Bell, *Anatomy of Human Body*. Lieutaud and Haller.

<sup>3</sup> Morton's *Anat.* p. 308. <sup>4</sup> *Cyclop. Prac. Med.* vol. I, p. 780. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 777 & 780.



into play the auxiliary muscles concerned in emesis? Or, is it, after undergoing the process of solution in the liquids of the stomach, absorbed, and thus enabled to make its impressions on the medulla oblongata, sympathetically rousing into action, through the motor nerves, the thoracic and abdominal muscles?

My own opinion is, that one class of emetics *are absorbed* and thus produce their specific effects; but another class, (the irritants, whether chemical or mechanical,) evidently produce their results by acting directly on the extremities of the nerves of the stomach. I conceive lobelia to belong to the latter class. Although but a tithe of its effects, are due to its acrid principles, yet its more prominent effects are evidently the result of impressions produced upon the nerves of the stomach. In order that we may more fully comprehend the bearing of the subsequent remarks, it will be necessary to fix in our minds the nerves by which the stomach is supplied and the sources from whence they are derived.

“The nerves of the stomach are derived from the pneumogastric, and from the semi-lunar ganglions of the sympathetic. The former surrounds the cardiac orifice as a plexus, and is the medium of communication between *the stomach, the œsophagus and pharynx, the larynx, lungs, and heart*. The gastric or coronary plexus is derived from the upper part of the solar plexus, some of the filaments of which ramify upon the cardia, while others follow the coronary artery along the lesser curvature of the stomach, and anastomose with the hepatic plexus.”<sup>6</sup> The pneumogastric nerve therefore, principally supplies the stomach. “The filaments from the coronary plexus of the stomach, as well as *those of the pneumogastric nerve* after having run for some distance beneath the peritoneum, perforate the muscular coat of the stomach, and appear to be *partly lost in it, and partly in the mucous membrane*.”<sup>7</sup> It is admitted by high authority, that the *gastric* branches of the pneumogastric nerve, influence both the *motions* and *secretions* of the stomach.<sup>8</sup> Bearing these facts in mind, I will now proceed to point out what I conceive to be the *modus operandi* of lobelia.

The peculiar effects produced by lobelia are due to probably only two of its proximate principles, viz: a volatile acrid oil, (?)

<sup>6</sup> Morton's Anat. pp. 306 & 533.

<sup>7</sup> Cruveilhier.

<sup>8</sup> Morton's Anat. p. 591.

and the alkaloidal principle lobelina. If lobelia be given in infusion, (the most common form in which it is exhibited,) both of these principles, being soluble in water, are immediately transported into the stomach. The *acid* principle, thus brought in contact with extremities of the gastric branch of the pneumogastric nerve, distributed through the mucous and muscular tunics of the stomach, makes an immediate impression, causing nausea, and, if it be present in sufficient quantity, vomiting. But this acid principle, soon expending its irritative energies, ceases to make its peculiar impression, and all nausea from this cause immediately subsides. Thus far its action is precisely similar to that of sulphate of zinc, ammonia, and salts of copper; in short, it is a direct emetic, and, like all of the class, acts by impressing the nerves of the cardiac portion of the stomach. This acid principle probably undergoes spontaneous resolution into its ultimate products, thereby losing its acidity, and hence ceases to create nausea and its attendant symptoms. But the alkaloidal principle, the *lobelina*, from the therapeutic action of which the most important benefits are derived to the system, has as yet not been disposed of; and, I confess, it has cost me more trouble to secure a satisfactory disposition of this part of my subject than of any other portion.

The lobelina in the plant, and consequently in the infusion, is always associated with an acid thus constituting a *salt*. As a salt, *lobelina* is incapable of producing its peculiar effects. This I shall attempt to demonstrate. Let us first investigate how one therapeutic agent may (when both are administered per stomach) arrest or modify the action of another. If an agent be administered in substance, whether in the form of powder or pillular, unless its action be purely mechanical, it must first undergo the process of solution; for the principle of the ancient chemists, *corpora non agunt, nisi fluida sint*, is as universal in medicine as in chemistry. Since the gastric fluids are the menstrua in which this solution must be accomplished, it is evident, if we so far dilute them by the administration of any liquid, as to destroy their solvent properties, the agent will remain an inert mass capable of producing only mechanical effects. Again, if the agent which we administer be in solution, and we exhibit another for which it has strong chemical

affinities, and with which it forms an insoluble compound, we render it, as before, an inert mass, and thus completely arrest its action. If the resulting compound be feebly soluble, requiring a large quantity of the menstrua, it is evident we thus diminish the intensity of its action or even give rise to an entirely new therapeutic effect. To illustrate, suppose a quantity of some corrosive salt has been swallowed. By its energetic affinities for the constituents of the tissues, it is capable of producing extensive lesions, or of forming new combinations with them, which are incompatible with the vitality of the structure. But I present another base, for which the acid of my salt has a superior affinity, and I obtain a new salt, corrosive it may be, but still much less soluble than the former. If now we conceive (and the conception is abundantly justified by facts), that the vitality of the parts is capable of controlling and directing affinities, when not excessively energetic, then the new salt which in sufficient quantity would produce destructive results, becomes, in consequence of the minute portion in the menstrua, simply an irritant, possibly only a stimulant. Thus three different grades of therapeutic action may be produced by varying the solubility of the agent; for I conceive the first two grades of action here referred to, (viz, corrosion and irritation), wholly, and the latter (stimulation), to a certain extent, dependent upon the energy of chemical action.

So far, therefore, as therapeutic action is dependent on chemical affinities, we vary the results, by modifying the intensity of these affinities; or we arrest the action, by satisfying the predominant affinity. Therapeutists commonly class the effects of medicinal agents, under three heads, Mechanical, Chemical, and Dynamic,—the three grades frequently occurring in the same agent. I have discussed the mode of varying the effects of medicines when dependent on chemical affinities. The mechanical effects need no illustration. But the *dynamic*, ah! here is indeed the *re-incognita* of medical men, the oft recurring but still unsolved problem of medical science. I confess I am *more* than favorably impressed with the *chemical* theory. That there exist *vital* chemical laws, in subserviency to which all the therapeutic agents of our *materia medica* act, and which, if fully developed, would explain the im-



mediate and remote results of our medicinal agents, I have not the least doubt. It is true there are certain effects—constant sequences from the exhibition of certain remedial means—the results of a potent influence exercised over the organization by therapeutic agents,—which are *apparently* not due to either chemical or mechanical agencies. But, since the effect follows the exhibition of the agent, it is a sufficient evidence that they bear to each other the relation of cause and effect; and, whatever may be the intervening links of connection, or how complicated soever their relation, still I am certain, that connection is of a *purely material* character, subordinate to material laws. The affinities, which control matter in the crucible or the retort, equally exert their influence over it in the organized being. “There is no doubt that the vital principle exercises a great power over chemical forces, yet it does so only by directing the way in which they are to act, and not *by changing the laws* to which they are subject. Hence, when the chemical forces are employed, in the processes of vegetable [or animal] nutrition, [or medication,] they must produce the same results which are observed in ordinary chemical phenomena.”<sup>9</sup> There are but two ways in which this connection between the agent and its effect can be conceived to exist. Either there must be a material connection such as I have intimated; or we must conceive the vitality of the part upon which the agent produces its so called dynamic effect, as endowed with intelligence, which receives the suggestion of its specific action from the *inert* and unintelligent agent. This latter assumption is too preposterous to receive one moment’s serious attention. What an *ignis fatuus* has that ideal—*nothing*—the *vis medicatrix naturæ*—*vis conservatrix* been to the medical profession. Rejecting, as unworthy our serious notice, the *vis expultrix* of the older physicians, to the intelligent agency of which they committed the important office of selecting what was useless and of expelling it from the system, we yet gravely retain its elder and more vicious sister, the *vis medicatrix naturæ*, and learnedly descant on the dynamic effect of medicines exercised through the agency of this medical chimera. I suspect very strongly, that, of those medicines which are supposed to act dynamically, a large number pro-

<sup>9</sup> Liebig Ag. Chem. p. 36.

duce their effects, by affinities as yet occult; and that the phenomena of the remainder are due to *electrical* agencies. Now, when it is recollected that *chemical affinities* and *electricity* are, in the opinions of the most eminent philosophers, identical, and hence convertible terms,<sup>10</sup> it seems to me more rational to refer the action of all remedies to mechanical and chemical agencies, not rejecting the co-operation of the vitality of the system, the tendencies of which are *always physiological*. Let us now thread our way out of this mirage of theories into the bare margin of which we have incautiously ventured, and return once more to facts, the *terra firma* of the medical explorer,—satisfied with having at least learned *a term*, if we have not gained an idea.

The action of lobelina on the system is dynamic, that is, it acts upon the nervous system leaving no *appreciable chemical* or *mechanical* change in the structures. This dynamic action, in my opinion, consists in first unduly exciting, and subsequently exhausting the *neuro-electric current*.

The lobelina contained in the infusion, is, as has already been observed, associated with its native acid in the form of a *lobeliate* (?) of *lobelina*. If now its action be dynamic, and if that dynamic action consist in an extraordinary excitement of the neuro-electric influence, (and I can conceive of no other dynamic action,) *then will the intensity of its effects be proportionate to the facility with which it is resolved into its ultimate elements, and its quantity of action will bear a direct ratio to its equivalent number*. For, even admitting this neuro-electric influence to be a modified form of electricity, still the modification can by no means change fundamental laws. I here make the assumption, that nervous influence is but a modified form of ordinary electricity. I make this assumption not alone; nor is the doctrine of the identity of nervous influence and electricity a recent one. As early as 1825 Bischoff in a work entitled *Die Lehre von den chemischen Heilmitteln* strongly advocated this doctrine; and, although the progress in electrical science has made such advances, and developed such a connection between chemical action and electrical phenomena, as render some of his *then* positions untenable, yet it has only proved defect

<sup>10</sup> Fownes' Chem. p: 167. Phil. 1847.

in the details, whilst it confirms the main doctrine. The experiments of Magendie, the researches of Prof. Zantedeschi, and Dr. Favio most clearly demonstrate the truth of the doctrine; and Liebig's *vital force* so nearly coincides with electricity from the galvanic battery, that, in the parallel which he has drawn, not the least divergence can be discovered,—introducing it, (electricity) as he says, to give clear conceptions of the origin and source of mechanical motions in the animal economy, since its manifestations “are *most closely* allied to the vital force.”

Regarding nervous influence therefore, as but a modified form of electricity,—*neuro-electricity*—the explanation of many difficult phenomena becomes comparatively easy; and, by an application of the fundamental laws of electricity which obtain in the inorganic, we shall arrive at a rational explanation of phenomena in the organic kingdom.

All chemical phenomena are due to electrical agencies; in other words, all chemical actions are but manifestations of electrical forces.<sup>12</sup>

The action of the electric force is *perfectly definite* in its nature, producing a fixed and constant amount of decomposition, expressed in each electrolyte, (body undergoing decomposition,) by the value of its chemical equivalent.<sup>13</sup> Hence the effects of chemical decomposition are proportionate to the quantity of circulating electricity; that is, *chemical affinity and electricity are one and the same force*.<sup>14</sup> Now, since the cause and the effect, *cæteris paribus*, bear to each other a constant ratio, it follows that the quantity of electricity is proportionate to the amount of chemical decomposition, and its intensity (quantity developed in a given time) to the rapidity of that decomposition.

Now, if we regard the vitality of the system as giving impetus to the decomposition of any substance introduced into the stomach, its effects on the nervous system, that is, its power to excite the neuro-electric influence, will be proportionate to the rapidity of its decomposition; and the period of time, during which this impression will be produced, will be equal to that occupied in its dissolution. Hence it follows, that those substances which are most unstable in their constitution, which undergo decomposition with the

<sup>12</sup> Berzelius. <sup>13</sup> Fownes' Chem. p. 164. Phil. 1847. <sup>14</sup> Kane, by Draper.



greatest facility, are most energetic in their action on the animal economy. Let us see how far facts justify my conclusions. Hydrocyanic acid, in an extremely small quantity, if applied to the back portion of the tongue of an animal, causes instant death. But Hydrocyanic acid is one of the most unstable compounds in the laboratory. In its pure form, it *can not be* preserved. Even when carefully excluded from the atmosphere in a well stopped bottle, or hermetically sealed in a glass tube, it spontaneously undergoes decomposition. When, for medicinal purposes, it has been diluted, so as to contain but two per cent of the acid, it will resist decomposition for some time; but the least predisposing cause, giving the impetus, it is suddenly converted into a brown pasty mass.

Again, the vegeto-alkalies are characterized, as a class, by the *energy of their action on the animal economy*. They all contain a considerable quantity of *nitrogen*, and are very complicated in constitution, having *high combining numbers*. They are all decomposed by *heat* at various temperatures. Now this is a general rule to which there are but few, if any, exceptions. Bodies which are most complex from the number of elements, and the want of simplicity in their equivalent relations, are by constitution weakest, and least capable of resisting the action of disturbing forces.<sup>15</sup> Hence, as a class, the vegeto-alkalies are extremely unstable, yielding to the slightest disturbing force. Combined with an acid, they become more fixed in their constitution, and resist any change with considerable energy. Lobelina belongs to this class.

It also follows, that any medicine which resists decomposition, must necessarily fail to produce *dynamic* effects; and, if it act at all, it will be in a purely mechanical manner. Hence insoluble compounds are inert. I am aware there are many *apparent* exceptions to this rule, found principally in the mineral kingdom. These exceptions I will make the subject of a future article. In the remedies drawn from the organic kingdom, which act dynamically, those which are most energetic leave behind no traces of their presence. They entirely disappear from the system, and consequently can have been disposed of in but one of two ways;—either their constituents, after entering the circulation, take a direct share in

<sup>15</sup> Fownes' Chem, p. 248.

the formation of structures of similar ultimate composition ; or they are conveyed to the secreting organs where they *exert an influence* on the formation, (?) or quality of the secretions by the *addition* of their own elements.<sup>16</sup> Now it is evident, that in the first, viz., where their elements are appropriated by structures of similar ultimate constitution, they merely serve the purposes of nutrition, and consequently produce none of the dynamic effects attributed to medicinal agents. In the second mode of disposition, when they affect the character of the secretions by the addition of their own elements, their power to produce dynamic effects will be dependent on two circumstances. 1. If the secretion be of an excrementitious character, as the urine, sweat, &c., its immediate expulsion from the system, precludes the possibility of medicinal effect. 2. But, if the secretion be of such a character as to be appropriated by the system in its operations of digestion (as in the case of gastric juice) or assimilation, we may then conceive that the altered character of the secretion might influence both the organs and their functions. This last supposition only proves the fact, that, in this case, before producing its specific effect, the medicine has been subjected to a vital pharmacy,—a preparatory process of the system precisely analogous to that of the pharmacist ; but still leaves unsolved the question, How does the altered secretion produce its dynamic effects ? It is apparent, therefore, that the medicinal effects must be produced, *either anterior to, or coincident with its decomposition*. Dynamically, the former is impossible.

As a salt, therefore, (that is in connection with an acid,) lobelina is incapable of producing any save mechanical effects,—its impression being due to its dissolution. As has before been observed with reference to the class to which it belongs, when combined with an acid, it resists any decomposition with considerable force. When, therefore, we administer it in infusion, after the effects due to its acrid principle have subsided, the patient for a short period of time experiences no unpleasant sensation ; and, if there be an acid condition of the stomach, this period will be considerably prolonged.

This suspension of its action, in many instances for a considerable period of time, might lead us to suspect that the lobelina was

<sup>16</sup> Liebig An. Chem. p. 55.

absorbed, and produced its peculiar effects upon the nervous system, by being brought immediately in contact with the origin of the motor nerves. There is a variety of facts which seem to stand opposed to this conclusion. If we suddenly expose lobelina to a temperature of  $212^{\circ}$ , it almost instantaneously undergoes decomposition, becoming perfectly insipid and inert. Even when it is in connection with acetic acid, its tendencies to undergo decomposition are so great, as to require the greatest caution in its preparation to prevent loss. Again, if exposed for some considerable period of time to a temperature of  $102^{\circ}$ , its elements spontaneously react, and decomposition ensues. Since the process of digestion is analogous to fermentation or *eremacausis*; and since the lobelina is joined to its native acid by an extremely feeble affinity, an affinity which probably, at the moment of entering the stomach, yields to the superior chemical attraction of the free hydrochloric acid, always present in the gastric juice, or to the lactic and other acids accidentally present; and since the temperature of the stomach and its contents is such as to favor decomposition; a dissolution of its elements must necessarily result from these combined predisposing causes, long before absorption to any great extent could occur. If, in addition to this, we take into account the peculiar viscid secretion which is always thrown off copiously from the mucous lining of the stomach upon the exhibition of lobelia,—a secretion which some have erroneously supposed to be a morbid product existing in the stomach previous to its administration,—which, sheathing the walls of the stomach, must necessarily present a mechanical impediment; we shall be still more inclined to the conclusion, that its primary effects are principally confined to the stomach, yet exerting sympathetically a most potent influence over remote organs.

Again, it is a well known fact, that we promptly promote emesis by neutralizing the acid present. Now there can be but one satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon. The presence of an acid in the stomach, cannot be conceived to either retard or promote emesis, unless it be of a corrosive character. But the acids present cannot be sufficiently concentrated to act thus;—if so, the stomach would have freed itself from the offending cause previous to the administration of the lobelia. The acid must, therefore, prevent



emesis by combining with the emetic substance, thus forming a salt, which, though soluble, yet pertinaciously resists decomposition. The administration of an alkali, not only neutralizes the uncombined acids present in the stomach, but, in virtue of its superior affinities, detaches the acids, either *native* or *gastric*, which may have been united with the lobelina, giving rise to salts of soda or potash, (if these alkalies be employed,) and setting the lobelina free. But, if the lobelina, in the form of a *salt* or *free*, had been absorbed, the alkali could, by no possible means, reach the then remote emetic substance and stimulate its latent powers into activity.

Finally, immediately preceding emesis, the patient experiences a peculiar sensation of heat in the epigastric region, a neuralgic pain in the stomach, particularly in the cardiac portion, around the œsophageal opening, the action of the heart and arteries is temporarily increased, a sensation of fullness about the head, accompanied with that peculiar dizzy sickness, which so often immediately precedes syncope, a feeling of oppression about the lungs, and finally a sense of stricture about the throat, accompanied with a scratching sensation in the fauces and pharynx, which many (amusingly enough) have mistaken for the acrid taste of the lobelia. I have detailed carefully the various symptoms in the order in which the patient most frequently experiences them. Now when we recall to mind the anatomical relation of the parts, and recollect that the pneumogastric nerve, in its passage from the restiform body of the medulla oblongata to the stomach, sends off branches to the larynx, pharynx, œsophagus, lungs, and heart, and that it is the medium of communication between these organs, we shall readily understand how the lobelina, acting dynamically, at the instant of its decomposition, on the plexus or net-work of nerves around the cardiac orifice of the stomach, would necessarily give rise to the symptoms before detailed. It also follows, that the various organs will be affected to a greater or less extent, as they are more or less influenced by the various branches proceeding from the main trunk. Thus, the sensation of heat in the epigastric region, and pain in the cardiac portion of the stomach, are due to the immediate impression produced upon the gastric branches which form a plexus (net-work) about this orifice ;—the slightly increased action of the heart, to

the cardiac branches which exert a limited influence on the muscular movements of this organ. The pulmonary branches (being both motor and sensitive) exert an important influence on respiration; and hence are largely affected, producing a feeling of oppression, which, once felt, is rarely forgotten. The laryngeal and pharyngeal branches, in like manner, implicate these structures, giving rise to the symptoms peculiar to these organs. But, if we suppose the lobelina to be absorbed, and, after entering the sanguinary circulation, to be transported to the origin of the motor nerves, and thus to give rise to the spasmodic action of the various organs in vomiting, still we shall fail to explain the peculiar impressions produced upon the nerves of sensation. Hence, I conclude the lobelina, when administered per stomach, expends its force, and undergoes decomposition principally in that organ.

From what has been said, I arrive at the following conclusions, that, when administered in infusion, the acrid proximate principles of the plant, acting as irritants, give rise to nausea and vomiting, if in sufficient quantities, and act simply as evacuants, giving rise to but few, if any, constitutional effects;—that, before the lobelina can produce its peculiar effects, it must exist in the state of a *vegeto-alkali*, uncombined with any acid;—that its effects are wholly dynamic, being confined to the brain and nerves, thus indirectly exerting an influence over the other structures;—that this dynamic effect consists in its power to excite, by its own decomposition, the *neuro-electric* influence;—that the energy of its action, on the animal economy, is due to the facility with which its elements yield to disturbing forces, and that its quantity of action is proportionate to its chemical equivalent;—that, when administered per stomach, it is not absorbed, at least to any great extent, but affects the remote organs sympathetically,—through the pneumogastric nerve primarily, and secondarily through the gastric plexus derived from the upper portion of the solar plexus of the great splanchnic nerves;—that it produces emesis, by unduly exciting the *neuro-electric* influence, thus stimulating into action the muscular tunics of the stomach, and the thoracic and abdominal muscles, which mechanically aid in ejecting the contents of the stomach.

I will, in a succeeding number of the Journal, continue my re-



marks, in which I will examine its character as to its narcotic properties, and give what I regard as its rationale in producing relaxation, diaphoresis, and other therapeutic effects. I will also explain what agents are incompatible, and those which promote its action.

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## THE PROGRESS OF PROFESSIONAL TRUTH.

PROF. C. NEWTON :—

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure of sending you the names of two other subscribers. This I do with feelings of delight, and I hope that I shall be able to obtain many more ; but the people generally think that the Journal is not worth as much to them as some newspaper which is filled with blackguard and nonsense. They have not yet learned how to appreciate truth and science. It seems to require some thought, on their part, to enable them to understand the valuable articles which are contained in the Journal. They, therefore, prefer to let their minds feed on nonsense and folly, which do not require thought.

I trust, that the friends of medical reform will arouse from such stupid notions, and call every nerve into action. If they will do this, they can accomplish much. For instance, if every one who takes some two or three newspapers, would take one paper less, and send for the Journal, read it, and give it to his friends to read, so that they, too, could be benefited by its valuable productions ; or, if those who are friends to the cause, who do not read so many newspapers, would abandon the use of that abominable weed, *nicotiana tabacum*, (tobacco) and spend, for Journals, one fourth the money which they spend for it, would read and distribute these Journals among their friends, they would become more enlightened, and enjoy far better health.

Sir, the question can no longer be entertained, whether the science of medicine is a part of the new order of things. The experience of the day has declared the truth of it. The Physio-Medical system is amply sufficient to relieve the sufferings of man, in



all cases, in which the organs of life are not so depressed as to totally destroy the vis conservatrix. Its resurrection is stamped with the broad seal of cura curatio. We trust, that all men will abandon the system of bloodshed and poisoning, and all systems of quackery, and will fly to the system that has, for its leading agents, the most innocent yet efficient plants, prepared by the Omnipotent hand.

Old Allopathy is fast dwindling away. The flame of its vitality is faintly flickering in its socket. Allopathists see that they have given rise to as many jeers and objections as they can; and they are fully persuaded in their own minds, that their sandy foundations are fast crumbling away. They see that they are surrounded with darkness, and covered with vanity. Some of them struggle mightily to maintain their system; while others pretend to know all systems, and practice accordingly. The former are beginning to see that their struggles are all in vain; and the latter are fully persuaded in their own minds, that the people are getting tired of being humbugged.

We are fully persuaded that a brighter day has made its appearance, and that its majestic rays will continue to spread themselves, and increase in brilliancy, as long as civilization exists. Its advocates are energetic, and they are determined to throw, on the subject, all the light that is in their power. They are willing and ready to examine every theory that is plausible, or promises good. Our cause has its orators, its authors, and its editors. It stands on the platform of prosperity, and all her advocates are actively employed in its heaven-favored work. We have our hands stretched out to relieve the sufferings of our fellow man; and we beseech of you, who value health, to accept our supplications. We beseech of you, who love science, to assist us in this arduous work. We have no intention to trample on the feelings of any man; but, we feel it an indispensable duty, due to our fellow-beings, to advocate true professional science. We cannot honor it with too deep a reverence. We cannot love it with an affection too pure and fervent; nor can we serve it with an energy of purpose, or a faithfulness of zeal too steadfast and ardent.

What is our system? It is not bleeding, leeching, cupping,

cauterizing, and poisoning; in short, it is not the life-destroying system which has been so popular, in past years. We have no intention to misrepresent any system. We only wish to spread the matter before you, in its own true odiousness, and point out some of its life-wasting principles. Conscious are we, that we cannot do justice to the subject. We are not able to lay open every wound and aching part, as it should be done. But this we can say, Ours is the system that has for its instruments of cure those agents which act in harmony with physiological laws, or those agents that assist the *vis medicatrix naturæ* in her efforts to remove disease out of the body.

This is the broad platform upon which we stand; and, be assured, that we cannot, as physicians, think too much of such a system, or sacrifice too much for it. I trust, that we never shall forget, that it is our indispensable duty to aid nature in her efforts to remove all obstructions from the body, and, at the same time, aid her in protecting herself against offending causes.

If we desire to see this system stretching over every land, and trampling under foot humbuggery and quackery, we must unite our efforts, and take hold of every means which tends to hasten its rapid and onward course. Now is the time to work. Now is the time to make the gigantic strides. Be not ignorant, whilst the light of truth is so beautiful and brilliant. Trust not yourselves to ease, whilst there is such a call for energy of mind and vigor of body. One very essential thing is, to be *liberal with the dimes*. Now is the time to work for science and benevolence. Soon, we shall be able to increase the purse to its utmost extent. Let it now be the object of our ambition to see science triumph over quackery.

Yours Respectfully,

A. L. WHITEHALL, M. D.

*Attica, Ind.*

## GESTATION.

## THE CIRCUMSTANCES SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL.

[The following portion of a private letter, addressed to us by one of our late graduates, will be read with interest, especially by the younger members of the profession, whose obstetrical experience has been limited. We answered our friend's inquiries, as well as we could; but have, as yet, received no further information.

We will here remark, that, in one case, which recently came within the limits of our practice, the period of gestation was evidently extended through eleven months. At the termination of nine months, there were evidences that foetal death had taken place; but the subsequent events were left almost exclusively to the direction of unassisted nature. The issue, notwithstanding the repeated uttering of "old wives' fables," was what it should be, though the foetus, when expelled, was much decayed.

Were our professional advice, in a case like this, to be implicitly followed, the only variation in the course pursued would be, to assist in bringing about the result, by the use of the "Mother's Cordial," *macrotrys racemosa*, *caulophyllum thalictroides*, or something of the kind, adapted to promote a healthy uterine action. When nature is allowed to lead in all such cases, and is aided—not thwarted—in her operations, the event is almost always safe and desirable. The multitude of occurring bad cases are nearly all made, by the mal-practice of empirical and meddlesome accoucheurs.—EDITOR.]

PROF. NEWTON:—

The following facts, relative to a case now under my charge, are deemed sufficiently singular and important, to merit the consideration of the wiser and more experienced of the profession. I, therefore, submit them for your consideration and advice, which I hope you will find it practicable to give, ere it be too late to benefit the patient.

On the 16th of Feb. last, I was requested to visit a Mrs. W. of this village, of a nervous sanguine temperament, and of an age a little above 30. She informed me, that the menses had ceased



about the first of July, 1849, at which time she became pregnant. Having suffered much from neuralgic symptoms during her two former pregnancies, and having had a protracted and painful convalescence from the two accouchements, under the Old-School practice, she concluded to try the Reformed. As she was then suffering neuralgic symptoms, which she described by the term "numbness," I ordered mild stimulants and nervines in combination, together with bathing and friction. These, with variations in combination and kind, have been continued since that time. She has, also, taken Smith's "Mother's Cordial."

The above treatment has produced, or been attended by, a quite comfortable state of the patient. But, to the great surprise of the lady, no symptoms of labor manifested themselves on the first of April, as was confidently expected, nor have they appeared since, except feebly, for brief periods.

On Sunday, at 2 o'clock, P. M., I was summoned to her in haste. Uterine hemorrhage was present, with slight, mimic labor pains, head-ache, and nausea, with a full pulse, which was a little increased in frequency. I made a vaginal examination. The neck of the womb was so high as to be reached with difficulty, and there was no dilatation of the os uteri. I prescribed a decoction of the leaves of the *rubus strigosus*, made pungent with *capsicum annuum*, and *macrotyris racemosa*, in powder. I applied warmth to the feet, and cold water to the head. The hemorrhage rapidly abated, until it wholly ceased; but it returned moderately on the following morning, with pain in the head, which last increased until afternoon, when it became intense, with loss of appetite. I now vomited the patient, and all unpleasant symptoms subsided. She rested well on the following night, her appetite soon returned, and she has since remained quite comfortable.

The motions of the child, which for many days had grown more and more feeble, have ceased to be recognised by the mother, since Monday night. She is confident the child is dead. No other symptoms of death of the *fœtus*,—as, a dead weight and coldness within the abdomen,—have been noticed. Will not such soon manifest themselves? The lady thinks she felt the first motion about the first week of November. I calculated her accouche-

ment, from this symptom, to take place the first or second week of the present month, believing that the menses had ceased from some other cause than pregnancy. But I am swamped; and she, in the predicament above detailed, is in a peck of trouble, harassed with gloomy forebodings.

Well, dear sir, what is to be done? This is the question. Shall we use means with a view of exciting genuine labor pains, and hastening the expulsion of the fœtus? or, shall our medication be directed to the palliation of urgent symptoms only, while we leave the case, so far as the time of expulsion is concerned, to nature? Knowing, as you must, the narrowness with which the first obstetric cases of a *reformer* are watched, as well as the great injury which a *failure* may do him and our good cause, I trust you will lose no time in forwarding your advice in this case. I am grateful for the *aid* and *comfort*, you have rendered me heretofore, under somewhat trying circumstances.

May 31st, 1850.

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## N. Y. STATE PHYSO-MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first Annual Meeting of the New York State Physo-Medical Society was held at the Capitol in the City of Albany, on the 11th of June, 1850.

At 11 o'clock, A. M., the President Wm. B. Stanton, M. D. took the chair, and called the Society to order, when, on motion, the minutes of the adjourned meeting held in October, 1849, were read and adopted.

On motion of Dr. Mattocks, Resolved, that a Committee of five be appointed by the Chair to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The Chair announced the following named gentlemen for that service, S. B. Vail, H. M. Sweet, E. J. Mattocks, J. B. Doolittle, A. Mosher.

On motion of Dr. Doolittle, adjourned to meet at half past 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Society met according to adjournment. The President presented the credentials of Isaac J. Sperry, M. D., and Calvin W. Jaques, M. D., delegates from the Connecticut Botanico-Medical Society, on a visit of "brotherly remembrance and good wishes" to this Society. A Committee of two was appointed by the Chair to wait on the above-named gentlemen, and invite them to take seats with the Convention, and participate in its deliberations. Also, Dr. Mattocks presented Dr. Rufus Guilford of Vermont, to the meeting, who was invited to take a seat and participate in the proceedings of the Society.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of nominating officers, reported the following.

For *President*, P. Lapham, N. Y. city.

*Vice President*, S. Tuthill, Poughkeepsie.

*Recording Sec'y*, H. M. Sweet, N. Y. city.

*Corresponding Sec'y*, O. Cook, Cambridge.

*Treasurer*, A. Mosher, Richmondville.

#### CENSORS.

Wm. B. Stanton, I. S. Mattocks,

A. Mosher, Cyrus Thomson,

J. B. Doolittle.

#### TRUSTEES.

W. B. Stanton, J. B. Doolittle,

S. B. Vail, H. M. Sweet,

A. W. Russell, E. J. Mattocks,

S. Tuthill.

The Report was accepted; and, upon balloting for the nominees for office, they were unanimously elected.

The Committee appointed at a previous meeting of the Society on Diplomas, reported progress. The report was accepted; and, on motion, Dr. P. Lapham was added to the Committee.

On motion, resolved, that the Delegates to this Convention from the Connecticut Botanico-Medical Society be granted Diplomas as honorary members of this Society. Also, that Dr. Rufus Guilford of Vermont receive a Diploma as an honorary member.

On motion resolved, that three Delegates be appointed to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Botanico-Medical



Society ;—whereupon the Chair announced the following, as such Delegates. O. H. Cook, A. S. Russell, and Wm. B. Stanton.

On motion of Dr. Stanton, Resolved, that we hold no communion with *Eclecticism* or any other *ism*, unless founded on true physio-medical principles.

On motion, Resolved, that Drs. Stanton and Russell be appointed a Committee, with the Corresponding Secretary, to communicate with Professor Curtis of Ohio, or other Professors of similar medical principles, on the practicability of obtaining the delivery of a Course of Medical Lectures, at some point in the eastern part of this State, the ensuing Autumn or Winter, and report to the Board of Trustees.

The following resolutions, offered by Dr. Cook, were adopted.

Resolved, that a committee of four be appointed by the Chair to collect information respecting fevers in general, and give the Society their collected views of the proper mode of treatment, at their next annual meeting.

Committee, Drs. Lapham, Cook, Russell, and Stanton.

Resolved, that a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair to collect information, and report, to this Society at its next meeting, such facts as may tend to demonstrate the contagious, or non-contagious character of the epidemic cholera.

Committee, Drs. Mosher, Doolittle, and Tuthill.

On motion of Dr. Stanton, Resolved, that the Recording Secretary be instructed to provide the Delegates appointed to attend the Connecticut Botánico-Medical Society, with the proper Credentials, with the seal of the Society attached.

Resolved, that the President be and is hereby authorized to call special meetings of this Society at such times as it may appear necessary.

On motion of Dr. Stanton, Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal for publication.

The Society adjourned, to meet at the Capitol in the city of Albany, on the second Tuesday of June, 1851.

P. LAPHAM, *President*,

S. B. VAIL, *Secretary, pro tem.*

## PSYCHOLOGY—A FACT.

PROF. NEWTON ;—A few weeks since, a lad, while playing during school recess, was struck in the eye just below the pupil, with the sharpened end of a small stick. He says that the withdrawal of the stick was followed by two or three drops of limpid fluid, and vision immediately became confused, and very indistinct. He called on me the next day, complaining of pain and soreness in the ball of the eye, enough to cause disturbed sleep, during the previous night. The conjunctiva was slightly injected ; but, otherwise, the eye appeared perfectly normal,—the place of puncture not being perceivable. He was directed to apply cold water to the part, and protect his eyes from the light. In a few days the pain and most of the soreness had disappeared, but still vision remained as imperfect as at first.

Being a good psychological subject, he was induced to try the effect of passes over the eye. The first operation, of five minutes duration, much improved the sight ; and the second, of one hour, subsequently, completely restored it, so that he could see as well with the wounded, as with the sound eye.

As the above is an indisputable fact, I deem it worthy a place in the Journal.

J. M. ALDRICH, M. D.

*Fall River, June 27, 1850.*

## THE AMERICAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE,

Revised, enlarged, and improved ; being a practical exposition of Pathology, Therapeutics, Surgery, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy, on reformed principles ; embracing the most useful portions of the former work, with correctness, additions, new remedies, and improvements ; and exhibiting the results of the author's investigations in medicine in this country, and in a year's tour in Europe. By W. BEACH, M. D., member of the Medical Society of the City of New York ; Professor of Clinical Practice in the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, and of Syracuse ; Corresponding

Member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Berlin, Prussia, etc. In three volumes, illustrated by three hundred engravings.

This long promised work will be ready to deliver in a few days. It has necessarily been delayed in consequence of the great amount of labor in completing it. About twice the quantity of matter has been inserted that was at first contemplated, and one hundred extra engravings on wood added, in addition to colored ones. For these reasons, and the extra style in which it has been issued and the extraordinary expense incurred, I am compelled, contrary to my first proposition, and contrary to my wishes, to charge at retail Twenty Dollars per Copy for the work. Those who wish it may remit this amount by mail at my risk, directed to W. Beach, No. 141, Fulton Street, New York. As I have only received a sufficient number of plates from London for 260 copies, those who send their orders first will be first supplied. The Books will be sent by Express or as ordered.

Parties ordering Five or more Copies will receive them at sixteen dollars per Copy.

W. BEACH.

*New York, June, 1850.*

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## Editorial.

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### WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

#### ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

The fifth Anniversary of the Worcester Medical Institution took place on Wednesday, June 12th. The public exercises were held in the Institution Hall. They consisted of an able and appropriate Address from Prof. E. M. Parritt, and the ceremony of conferring the degree of Doctor in Medicine, on such members of the Class as were found to have complied with the requirements of the Institution for graduation.

The Class, in attendance during the Term now closed, numbered 29; five of whom, having sustained a satisfactory examination be-



fore the Board of Censors, and the Faculty,—having, also, completed a three years' course of medical study, and presented to the Faculty the required theses, received the degree of M. D. in course. Their names, residences, and theses are as follows.

Names.	Residences.	Theses.
GEORGE ANDREWS,	Guilford, Conn.,	<i>Diet.</i>
WILLIAM BAILEY,	Bowdoinham, Me.,	<i>A Proposed Substitute for Blisters.</i>
WILLIAM H. HEATH,	Sandwich, N. H.,	<i>Opium.</i>
WILLIAM LEACH,	Merideth Bridge, N.H.,	<i>Inflammation.</i>
WILLIAM C. STAPLE,	Industry, Me.,	<i>Carcinoma.</i>

Besides these individuals, Mr. Abraham F. Hervey was examined and approved as a candidate for the degree in September next, at which period he will have completed the required time of study.

The honorary degree of M. D. was also conferred on Dr. Reuben Green of West Acton, Mass.

The members of the Class generally have pre-eminently distinguished themselves by their love of the philosophy of medicine, and by a disposition to avail themselves of every means to become acquainted with the true principles of medical science.

The meeting of the Trustees, immediately subsequent to the public exercises, was one of unusual interest, on account of the peculiarity of the crisis at which the Institution has arrived. It was found, that various reports, detrimental to the interests of the Institution and derogatory to our own character, have been, for a considerable time, extending their circulation. Doubtless, these reports, like the stream enlarged by its tributaries, have received accessions to their defamatory character, in their onward course; but, in too many cases, for the honor or integrity of one of our associates, were they clearly traced to him as their source. We accordingly felt, that, under no circumstances whatever, could we longer retain our relation to the existing Faculty of the Institution, and we peremptorily and unqualifiedly tendered our resignation.

After so arduous struggles and abundant sacrifices as we have made, thus to find, that abuses abroad are sustained by allies at home, is more than our honor or our duty will allow us to bear.

For almost half a century, we have lived in the maintenance of an unblemished moral character; and we still defy any man to impeach that character.

As to scientific and professional attainments, our brethren may say of us what they choose. Our talents, such as they are, are before the world. All which has ever been our boast is, that we have learnt the first lesson in science; that is, we have come to understand, with that eminent man—our namesake of a past century,—that we are only in the condition of children playing with pebbles on the shore, while the great ocean of truth is before us. Of course, we would be greatly obliged to our friend Dr. Fisk of Killingly, Conn.,—who, it seems, has lately found out what we ourselves have long known—our limited intellectual qualifications,—*if* he will just impart to us a little from his super-abundant fulness.

Reports, however, involving the question of one's moral integrity, are quite another affair. We have been charged with managing the pecuniary interests of the Institution *very irregularly*.—with appropriating, to our own use, monies which belonged to our associates,—with granting diplomas without the direction of the Institution, &c., &c. These various charges have a foundation, not as substantial as the veriest *shade of a shadow*; and those who have had the audacity to make them (we care not whether they are hypocritical friends or open foes) we shall hold morally and professionally accountable. If they venture a repetition, we shall hold them *legally* accountable. We have reached that point, beyond which forbearance is not a virtue.

The pecuniary affairs of the Institution have been managed with the strictest economy, which the nature of the case has admitted. Indeed, in all our operations, we have, not only been willing for, but sought investigation. We have done every thing in the open light of day. And now, since false rumors have been so diligently circulated, it is but justice to ourselves to say thus distinctly, that, in point of fact, we have from time to time, been loaning funds to the Institution, and it is, at the present time, indebted to our liberality, in the sum of between two and three hundred dollars, advanced, directly from our pockets, to relieve its imperious necessities. Really, the tables are a little turned upon those who have so

insinuatingly and wickedly sought our injury, and that of the Institution.

But enough of this self-justification. Suffice it to say, the Trustees unanimously refused to accept our resignation, and appointed a Committee thoroughly to canvass the whole matter, and report at an adjourned meeting, July 1st, 1850.

Some changes were made in the Board; and the officers, elected for the ensuing year, are Calvin Newton, President, E. M. Parritt, Secretary, and Wm. Johnson, Treasurer. The following persons were chosen as the next Board of Censors,—J. M. Aldrich, Aaron Ordway, Benjamin Warren, Ebenezer Robinson, Stephen Webster, A. R. Porter, and George M. Dadd.

Committees also were appointed to take charge of the various departments of business coming under the supervision of the Board. They are as follows;

Committee on Finance, Geo. W. Churchill, Stephen Cutler, Wm. Johnson.

Committee on Buildings, E. M. Parritt, Charles Ballard, John A. Andrews.

Committee on Professorships, Calvin Newton, Walter Burnham, George W. Churchill.

Committee on Library, I. M. Comings, John A. Andrews, B. O. Wilson.

Also, a special Committee was appointed to investigate the subject which led to Prof. Newton's resignation. They were as follows; E. M. Parritt, John A. Andrews, and George W. Churchill.

#### ADJOURNED MEETING.

At 10 o'clock, A. M., this day, July 1st, the adjourned meeting of the Institution was held at the house of the President. At this meeting, the whole matter of our relation to Prof. Comings was thoroughly canvassed.

It is proper here to say, that, as we love peace, we had quietly borne with the faults and misrepresentations of the Professor,—we had put the best construction on his intentions, although his policy was often, in our judgment, about as unwise as could be,—we had kept from the public eye, as best we could, the imperfections of



his teachings,—we had corrected the orthographical, grammatical, and rhetorical errors of his articles for the Journal, so as to render them passable, if not interesting, to our readers; and, for his individual benefit and the honor of a common cause, we had frequently expressed a willingness to continue to do so; but, at length, his misrepresentations and abuses became too flagrant to be longer endured. Especially, his wanton misstatements about our connexion with the pecuniary interests of the Institution would no longer allow of silence on our part. We demanded of the Trustees a thorough examination into all the matters in which we were professionally concerned; and, when it was proposed, that this should be done by a Committee, at our request, Prof. C. was appointed chairman. We did believe, that, whether he had ignorantly or wilfully perverted truth, he could not, after surveying the whole ground, longer persist in misrepresentations. The fact, however, proved otherwise. He seemed determined to take advantage of his position on that Committee, to abuse public sentiment and mould it to our personal injury. Of course, we felt, that we had no alternative. We could not longer remain where we should be liable to the continued reception of such false charges and wanton attacks.

These are, in short, the reasons why we refused longer to be connected with the immediate Government of the Institution. The Trustees, however, having referred the whole matter to the consideration of a new Committee, a proper and thorough investigation was instituted; and the report of the Committee was as follows.

#### Report of the Committee on Dr. Newton's Resignation.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the various charges and accounts, out of which Prof. Newton's resignation grew, beg leave to present the following report:

We find, upon investigation, that, in the incipient efforts to establish the Worcester Medical Institution, private individuals were under the necessity of assuming responsibilities of a pecuniary character. Thus, in the first Course of Lectures, in consequence of a failure on the part of a portion of the Class, to pay the demands due from them for instruction, John A. Andrews, M. D., and Prof. C. Newton, M. D., became liable to the amount of

eighty-six dollars, and were compelled to advance this sum from their private funds.

We find, also, that, in the subsequent operations of the College, previously to its being chartered, and for one year afterwards, this same state of things unavoidably continued. The College being (as all others are in their infancy) unknown to business men, in meeting the expenses, necessarily occurring, to sustain the operations of the Institution, Prof. Newton has still continued to become responsible for all demands, and to discharge them as they have become due. The Board has, from time to time, sanctioned and ordered the expenditure thus occurring, to be liquidated from the College funds in his possession.

Thus, the College expenditures and disbursements have, from necessity, been transacted through Prof. Newton, (no other one being willing to become pecuniarily responsible,) instead of the officers of the Institution.

The account of Prof. Newton, presented for investigation, and out of which his resignation originated, is a complete exhibit of all the business transacted for the College, from its first beginning up to the present time. In it is given an exact account of all monies and means of illustration, received at any time, for the benefit of the College; also, an exact account of the expenditures, accompanied, in a great majority of cases, by their corresponding vouchers.

From this exhibit, it appears, that Prof. Newton, in addition to his subscription, has advanced, over and above all funds, and property convertible into money, in his hands—the sum of two hundred and twenty-three dollars and seventeen cents. These funds have been expended for apparatus in the chemical, anatomical, and surgical departments, for diploma plate, &c., &c.

A thorough investigation shows, that, although as before explained there has been some informality in the reception and disbursement of funds, yet there has been no appropriation to private use, nor undue retention of it in the hands of Prof. Newton; but, on the contrary, every cent has been duly appropriated, as the Board has from time to time directed.

We have, therefore, no hesitancy in saying, not only that the charges

of embezzling funds belonging to the Institution are perfectly false, but that much credit is due Prof. Newton for his promptly meeting all demands against the Institution.

Your Committee would further report, that, in their opinion, from the incompatibility of views, which exists between Profs. Newton and Comings, and from the impossibility of their harmonizing on doctrines of medicine and in views of policy, the interests of the Institution demand that Prof. Comings be requested to resign his situation in the Faculty.

We are induced to make this recommendation, not from any preferences in favor of Prof. Newton, or prejudices against Prof. Comings; but from a conviction, that this course will best secure the success of the Institution, harmony being essential to the full prosperity of any enterprise.

Your Committee, having discharged the duties assigned them, would most respectfully submit all to the final action of the Board.

E. MORGAN PARRITT,

*Worcester, Mass., July 1st, 1850.*

GEO. W. CHURCHILL.

This report was accepted and adopted. Prof. Comings was asked to resign his Professorship. This, however, he peremptorily refused to do;—whereupon it was voted,—unanimously, with one exception,—to declare the Professorship of Theory and Practice, and Obstetrics vacated. The cause of our dissatisfaction being thus removed, we withdrew our resignation, in accordance with the request of the Board.

By a vote of the Board, the department of Obstetrics was then united to the chair of Surgery. Also, Alva Curtis, M. D., was unanimously elected to the chair of Theory and Practice.

The honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine was then conferred on Dr. Ebenezer Robinson of Warren, Mass.

Also, the thanks of the Board were tendered to Dr. M. M. Cannon of Lancaster, Va., for the present to the Institution of some valuable specimens of morbid anatomy.

Other items of business, of less immediate interest to the public, were transacted, and the Board adjourned.

This whole matter has been of painful interest to us; but we



feel confident that the Trustees have acted wisely, and we feel that the Institution has rid itself of a weight which was sadly depressing its interests. With the removal of Prof. C., has fled from us the only relic of Thomsonism, in the low and objectionable sense of the term. The Faculty now are most harmoniously united in conducting the interests of the Institution in a liberal manner, and in permanently establishing it on a scientific basis. Dr. Curtis, so favorably known, throughout New England, will, we trust, prove a valuable accession to the Faculty. Arrangements are being made for erecting forthwith a splendid College edifice ; and with the Institution's increased accommodations, and a full Board of Instruction, another season, we shall expect a Class of triple the number of any one of the former Classes.

### CURE OF LUPUS.

In the month of December, 1849, Mrs. David Stone of Oxford, Mass., came under our medical treatment, under the following circumstances. Almost ten years before, being convalescent from a fever in which she had been Allopathically treated, she discovered upon her neck, directly over the sterno-cleido-mastoid muscle, small dark-colored specks, apparently under the cuticle. These increased in number and in size, extended to each other, became more visible, and at length developed a dark surface, the edges of which were irregular, but which was equivalent in extent to three or more square inches. At length, this surface assumed the hard, rough, and scaly appearance of the elephant's skin, clearly constituting *local elephantiasis*.

About two years previous to December last, there began to arise, in the central portion of the affected skin, two or three tubercles or dark incrustations, which, as they increased, were found to contain ichorous and purulent matter, and constituted, in fact, the disease properly termed *Lupus*, or *Noli me tangere*. The latter name, in English *Touch-me-not*, has been given to this species of

cancer, because of its generally becoming worse, by being interfered with by medical men.

In the case under consideration, the lupus would occasionally discharge its contents ; and then, after appearing, for a short season, more dry and encrusted, would fill again. Much of the time, there was in it a tingling and smarting sensation, together with heat and itching ; and, on the whole, it was becoming a source of considerable annoyance.

In this condition of things, the possibility and the manner of its extirpation, became matters of no inconsiderable interest. Several physicians of eminence were consulted ; and, among them, Dr. John Green of this city. The latter was unwilling to treat it at all himself, and only advised the patient to repair immediately to a professional gentleman of great celebrity for the treatment of tumors, residing in the city of New York. Dr. G. expressed the belief, that Mrs. S.'s greatest hope of cure must arise from this source ; but plainly intimated the impossibility of any treatment's being found successful.

Allopathic *science* having gone thus far, we, by request, undertook to see what Botanic *quackery* would do, towards effecting a removal of the disease. We first made trial of several mild remedies ; but, finding them ineffectual, we resorted to a plaster made the extract of *oxalis acetocella* [wood sorrel]. The application was repeated daily for about five days, when the lupus appeared to be entirely destroyed. Mattison's healing salve was then applied ; and, in four days, the ulcer, which the plaster had created, was healed. The part has since remained well, and free from soreness and pain. For constitutional effect, anti-scorfulous and tonic remedies were used, to purify and strengthen the system ; and, in a short time, the cure was complete.

The process was simple but effectual, and the only circumstances of regret are that *common-sense quackery* should thus triumph over *non-sensical science*,—that the New York doctor should be deprived of a comfortable fee, to the amount, doubtless, of some fifty or a hundred dollars,—and that the patient should not be left mangled in body, and impaired in health, a subject for the reckless experiment of some other *would-be-wise* one in the profession.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., AUGUST 1, 1850.

NO. 8.

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Communications.

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MASSACHUSETTS PHYSO-MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Pursuant to previous notice, the *Bay State Medical Reform Association* met at the Town Hall in Lawrence, on Thursday, the 27th day of June, 1850. The President being absent, the Secretary called the Meeting to order at 11 o'clock. On motion, Prof. Calvin Newton was appointed President pro tem. The minutes of the last meeting were then read and approved.



On motion of Prof. Burnham, Aaron Ordway, M. D., of Lawrence, was appointed a Counsellor pro tem., in the place of Geo. M. Dadd, M. D., who was absent.

On motion of Prof. Burnham, Prof. E. Morgan Parritt of Ohio was elected an honorary member of the Association; whereupon Prof. Parritt acknowledged the honor with appropriate remarks. Voted, that a Committee of three be appointed to draft and report Resolutions for the consideration of the Association. The chair appointed Geo. W. Churchill, Walter Burnham, and O. P. Warren the Committee. On motion of Prof. Burnham, Dr. William Johnson of Boston was admitted an honorary member. Dr. Geo. W. Churchill, from the Committee on obtaining a charter from the Legislature, reported, and, in behalf of the Committee, asked further time for the discharge of their duties. The Report was accepted, and the time granted. Prof. C. Newton from the Committee to report a Constitution for the Association, reported by furnishing a draft, which was accepted and laid on the table for further consideration.

The Counsellors reported the following gentlemen for membership:

DR. H. P. REMICK, LOWELL, Mass.,  
DR. NATHAN H. DILLINGHAM, CONCORD, N. H.,  
DR. REUBEN GREEN, West Acton, Mass.,  
DR. JAMES M. ALDRICH, Fall River, Mass.,  
DR. D. L. AMBROSE, Newburyport, Mass.,  
DR. J. T. RUSSELL, Methuen, Mass.,  
DR. JOHN L. MARTIN, Littleton, N. H.,  
DR. JOHN ALLEN, Lowell, Mass.,

who were voted for and unanimously accepted. On motion, adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

At 2 o'clock, P. M., the Association met and proceeded to business.

On motion of G. W. Skinner, M. D., the new draft of the Constitution was taken from the table, considered article by article, and adopted unanimously; after which, Dr. F. H. Kelley offered another article, proscribing the use of *Mercury, Arsenic, and Anti-*

*mony*, which was adopted without a dissenting voice, and incorporated into the Constitution.

Dr. G. W. Churchill, from the Committee on resolutions, offered the following, which were adopted.

Whereas there has been a misunderstanding in the minds of many, in regard to the nature, views, and intentions of this Society, we deem it proper to set forth concisely its objects, for our own benefit, and to secure the influence of the reformed practitioners, and the support of the people in the State, Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the principles on which we act are truly *natural*, that the term PHYSO-MEDICAL [natural-medical] is more significant and expressive, than any other we can select, of the specific character of our Institution, and that it be hereafter adopted as the appella-tive feature of the practice of our profession.

*Resolved*, That it is the design and fixed purpose of this Society, in all things wise, honest, and excellent, to keep pace with the genius and spirit of the age, in regard to the light which is being thrown upon anatomical analysis and therapeutic practice,—the Society thus demonstrating itself to be an exponent of science, benevolence, truth, and love.

*Resolved*, That physicians are called upon universally, not to be *one-idea* men, as to any name, system, article, or popular mode of practice, but to throw open their minds, hands, and hearts to uni-versal science, knowledge, and truth, calculated to aid them in the great and good work of preventing and arresting disease and death.

*Resolved*, That physicians ought not to encourage any man to enter on the study and practice of medicine, unless from his dis-position and his character it be evident, that he is qualified to sympathize with those afflicted by disease.

*Resolved*, That all physicians who see and feel the importance of reform in medicine, ought to separate themselves from all others, and unite with us ; and, since “union is strength,” let all harmo-niously co-operate in moving forward the glorious car of medical science and improvement.

Prof. Parritt offered the following, which, after spirited remarks from several gentlemen in favor of their passage, were adopted with-out a dissenting voice.

*Resolved*, That this Society regard the Worcester Medical Institution as a means well calculated to advance the interests of true medical reform, and that this Society will, by all honorable means, use all reasonable exertions, to secure its successful operation.

*Resolved*, That we cordially recommend it to the patronage of reformers in medicine, as an Institution well calculated to secure the success of our cause.

On motion, Voted, that a Committee of three be appointed to procure the publishing of ten thousand Health Tracts, for circulation among the people; and Dr. G. W. Skinner of Newburyport, Dr. A. Ordway of Lawrence, Dr. A. W. Pratt of Providence, R. I., were appointed said Committee.

On motion of Dr. Bachelder, *Resolved*, That the Committee on publishing Health Tracts be authorized to give a premium of ten dollars for the best article on the action of mercury on the human system. On motion of Dr. Aldrich, Voted, that the Committee on Tracts furnish them to the Secretary, who shall distribute the same to all who wish, at the cost of publishing.

On motion of Dr. Skinner, Voted, That the next meeting of the Society be held in the City of Boston.

Adjourned till 7 o'clock, P. M.

At the hour appointed, the Society met at the spacious Town Hall, and listened to an able address from Prof. E. Morgan Parritt.

Voted, to publish the proceedings of the meeting in the N. E. B. M. & S. Journal.

On motion, adjourned, sine die.      GEO. W. CHURCHILL, *Sec'y*.

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#### CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PHYSO-MEDICAL SOCIETY.

##### PREAMBLE.

We, whose names are hereto affixed, believing that medical science is susceptible of improvement,—that, in matters of medicine, the true interests of both physicians and community require, in all cases, the adoption and use of the most efficient and safe remedial agents and means, without regard to mere authority or past usage,—that it is more especially the duty of the best informed of the Profession to aid in the discovery and introduction of such



agents and means, to the rejection of others that are comparatively worthless, or positively injurious,—and feeling, that these ends may best be subserved by some suitable plan of union, do, therefore, associate ourselves together for the purpose, and agree to be governed by the following

#### CONSTITUTION.

##### ART. I. NAME AND OBJECT.

Sect. I. This Society shall be styled the Massachusetts Physo-Medical Society.

Sec. II. Its object shall be to guard the interests and aid in the advancement of true medical science.

##### ART. II. MEMBERSHIP.

Sect. I. Any person being an Alumnus of any regularly constituted and incorporated Medical College or School; and being, at the time of application, not less than twenty-one years of age, of sound mind, and of good moral character; and presenting to the President and Recording Secretary satisfactory testimonials of all the preceding qualifications, may become a Member of this Society, by signing the Constitution in the hands of the Recording Secretary. Or any person not a medical graduate but possessing the other qualifications above specified, may, in like manner, become a Member of this Society, on condition of his obtaining from the Censors of the Society, a certificate, that he has, before them, passed a satisfactory examination in all the branches usually taught in Medical Colleges.

Sec. II. Every Member shall be entitled to a Diploma, which shall be furnished to him by the Recording Secretary, in the following form:

SOCIETAS PHYSO-MEDICA MASSACHUSETTENSIS.

*Auctoritate exauctorata ducit ipsa natura.*

Quum oportet, ut medicinæ cultores, qui, artem suam fideliter ediscendo, vel recte exercitando, famam honestam consecuti sunt, sibi socios eligerent et adjungerent,—notum esto, quod his propositis exsequendis *Societas Physo-Medica Massachusettensis* socium

accepit Dominum \_\_\_\_\_ in oppido, \_\_\_\_\_ habitantem, virum vitæ integerrimum, artisque medendi peritissimum, qui omnibus honoribus et privilegiis Societatis dignissimus judicatus est.

Quorum in testimonium, sigillum Societatis affixum est, nominæque Præsis et Scribæ opposita sunt.

Datum, Vigorniae, die \_\_\_\_\_, Anno Domini Millesimo Octingentesimo \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Præses.

\_\_\_\_\_ Scriba.

Sect. III. Any member may resign his Membership at his pleasure; *provided* he has paid all his assessments up to the time of such resignation; and *provided also* he be not, at that time, liable to expulsion for any misconduct to which such penalty is attached.

Sect. IV. Any person who has resigned Membership may resume the same, by proceeding anew in the manner stated in Art. II, Sect. I.

Sect. V. Each member of the Society shall be assessed annually two dollars, to be paid to the Treasurer of the Society, or of any one of the District Societies. Members, however, residing out of the State shall be assessed but one dollar annually, to be paid as above.

Sect. VI. Those Members who have arrived at the age of sixty years, and have notified the same to the Treasurer of the Society in writing, having paid all their assessments, or having been excused from the same, shall not, thenceforth, be liable to assessments, and shall not be bound to accept any office in the Society. They shall, however, be entitled to all the privileges of Members; shall conform to all other requirements of the Society; and be subject to all its penalties. They shall, while living, be distinguished in the printed list of the Society by a peculiar mark, and shall be denominated *Retired Members*.

Sect. VII. Any Member may be expelled from the Society, or, having become a Retired Member, may be deprived of his privileges, by a vote of two-thirds of the Members present at any annual meeting,—*provided* an opportunity has been given him to lay before the Society a refutation of the charge or charges made,



or a defence of his conduct, in the premises, upon charges of the following description, viz :—

1. For any gross and notorious immorality, or infamous crime, under the laws of the land.

2. For any attempt to overturn or destroy the Society.

3. For advertising or otherwise offering for sale any medicine, the composition of which he keeps a secret, or proposing to cure any disease by any such secret medicine.

4. For furnishing to any person, or presenting in his own behalf, a false certificate of character and qualifications as a student of medicine, tending to deceive any Medical College, the public, or the Society.

5. For having resort, in his practice, to *general depletion*, the use of *mercury*, *arsenic*, *antimony*, or any *mineral or vegetable preparation* which does not act in unison with the laws of nature.

### ART. III. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES.

Sect. I. The Officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, seven Counsellors, and five Censors ; who shall all be chosen, by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Society, and shall hold their respective offices until others shall have been chosen in their stead.

Sec. II. A vacancy, occurring in any office, shall be filled by appointment by the President ; except, in case such vacancy occurs in the Presidency, the Vice President shall discharge the duties of that office ; and, in case of disability of the Vice-President also, the said duties shall devolve upon the senior Counsellor.

Sect. III. The President shall call all meetings of the Society, (the annual meeting excepted,) and of the Counsellors, and shall preside at all meetings of the same. He shall have a casting vote only in case of an equal division on any question, except in the use of another's proxy, as provided for in Art. IV, Sec. IV. He shall not, during any meeting, leave the chair, unless on some urgent occasion ; and shall not speak to any question, without first obtaining permission. He shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.



Sect. IV. The Corresponding Secretary shall have the charge and custody of all letters and communications to the Society, or to the Counsellors; and to him they should be addressed. He shall prepare and transmit whatever communications the Society or the Counsellors may direct. He shall report, at each annual meeting, the names of all persons who have become Members since the preceding annual meeting. On or before the fifteenth day of December, annually, he shall transmit to the Treasurer of the Society a correct list of all who shall have become Members during one year preceding; and he shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.

Sect. V. The Recording Secretary shall keep the seal of the Society; and shall have charge and custody of the records of the Society, and of all papers directed by the same to be kept on his files. He shall give notice of and attend the meetings of the Society and of the Counsellors; keep a fair record of their proceedings respectively; and read, at the meetings of the Society, all such communications as the Counsellors may direct to be made. He shall notify the Chairman of every Committee appointed by the Society or Counsellors of his appointment, in each case stating the Commission, and the names of the Committee; and he shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.

Sect. VI. Every Member who may be appointed, at any meeting, to fill the place of either of the Secretaries, shall, after discharging the customary duties of the latter, for the time specified in his appointment, arrange and deliver over to the proper incumbent, so soon thereafter as may be convenient, the records, or a copy of them, as the case may be, and other papers belonging to the department of such Secretary.

Sect. VII. The records of the Society shall be produced at every anniversary meeting of the same, and shall be put in some convenient place for the inspection of such of the Members as are desirous of consulting them; and, at all other times, it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to grant every reasonable indulgence to every Member of the Society who may wish to examine the records.

Sect. VIII. The Treasurer shall give security for the trust

reposed in him, when the Counsellors deem it requisite. He shall demand and receive all money due the Society, and all bequests and donations. He shall, in general, have the care and management of the fiscal concerns of the Society, and keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. He shall pay no money out of the Treasury, without a written order from the Counsellors. He shall subject his accounts to such examination as the Counsellors may order ; and shall, at the annual meeting, make a statement of his doings, and of the state of the funds in his hands, to the Society. He shall, on or immediately before the fifteenth day of December, annually, transmit, to the Treasurer of each District Society, a list of all assessments which will be due from the members of the same previous to the annual meeting for that year, with authority to collect the same, and shall charge the amount thereof to him ; and he shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.

Sect. IX. The Librarian shall have in his custody and charge the books, museum, instruments, and apparatus of the Society. He shall keep an accurate register of the same, and arrange them in a proper manner ; and shall make such disposal of them, from time to time, as the Counsellors may direct for the benefit of the Members. He shall, at each annual meeting, make a statement of the business of his department to the Society. He shall carefully record all donations received in his department ; shall distribute the publications of the Society in such way as the Counsellors may direct ; and shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned to him.

Sect. X. The Counsellors shall have the general supervision and direction of such incidental business matters as may not have been assigned in this Constitution to any other Officer or Officers of the Society. They shall, at each annual meeting, appoint a Committee of Arrangements for the Anniversary of the following year ; and also a Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts, Library, and Cabinet, within two weeks of the next annual meeting, at which meeting these Committees shall report upon the condition of the same. , They shall also appoint some Member to deliver a discourse on some subject connected with medical science, at the



annual meeting of the next year. In case the person thus appointed shall decline the service, the President, with the consent of at least two of the Counsellors, shall appoint another ; and a copy of every such discourse shall be deposited with the Corresponding Secretary, within three months after it has been delivered. The Counsellors shall perform, also, such other duties as may have been assigned to them in any of the articles of this Constitution, or as shall be, from time to time, assigned to them by the Society.

Sect. XI. The Counsellors shall cause a publication to be issued as early as may be after each annual meeting, which shall be distributed, by the Librarian, to each Member and Retired Member of the Society. Such publication shall contain the annual discourse, unless otherwise directed by the Society, and such other medical communications as the Society or Counsellors may see fit to publish ; an abstract of the proceedings of the Society and of the Counsellors, excepting only such as are of a private or personal nature ; a list of the Officers of the Society, and of each District Society, for the current year ; and a list of those who have become Members, and of those who have resigned Membership during the year preceding.

Sect. XII. The Censors shall faithfully examine all candidates for the Membership of the Society, (not graduates of Medical Colleges,) in the various branches of medical science usually taught in Medical Colleges ; and, for this purpose, they shall hold a meeting annually, on the last Wednesday of December, in the city of Lowell, and another meeting annually, on the last Wednesday of June, in the town of Springfield, at such hour and place as the Chairman shall designate.

Sect. XIII. The first chosen Censor shall be Chairman of the Board, and a majority shall constitute a quorum for doing business. A less number than a majority may adjourn a meeting at their pleasure, but shall pass no other vote.

Sect. XIV. Any Censor who shall neglect or refuse to attend any meeting for the examination of candidates, without offering an excuse satisfactory to those who do attend, shall pay a fine of five dollars to the Secretary of the Board of Censors, who shall transmit it to the Treasurer of the Society.



Sect. XV. The travelling expenses of each Censor, in attending the meetings for examination of candidates, shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Society, on the presentation of a written order from the Counsellors, to whom each Censor shall prefer his claims.

Sect. XVI. The Censors, at their first meeting after their election, shall appoint a Secretary from their own body. The Secretary so appointed shall keep a faithful record of the meetings and transactions of the Board of Censors, and certify, in writing, to the President and Secretary of the Society, what candidates have passed a satisfactory examination.

Sect. XVII. The meetings of the Censors, shall be notified by their Chairman, by public advertisements, in such newspapers as he shall deem it advisable to give notice in, at least one month before the day of the meeting; and the expense of advertising shall be paid out of the Treasury of the Society, on the presentation of a written order from the Counsellors.

Sect. XVIII. Any Officer of the Society may, for sufficient reasons, resign his office; or he may be removed from the same, if other than a Counsellor, by order of the Counsellors, for neglect, inattention, or misconduct. A Counsellor may, for the same offences, be removed from office by a vote of the President and any four of his fellow Counsellors.

#### ART. IV. MEETINGS.

Sec. I. The annual meeting of the Members of this Society shall be held on the first Wednesday in January, at such hour and at such place as the Counsellors shall direct.

Sect. II. A special meeting of the Society may be called by the President, at any time, upon the presentation, by a majority of Counsellors, of the reasons for the same, and their petition to that effect. A notice of such meeting shall be inserted in the columns of, at least, one newspaper in each District, and at least, fourteen days before the time of such meeting.

Sect. III. At any meeting of the Members of this Society, seven shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn the meeting.

Sect. IV. Any Member of the Society, absent from any meeting of the same, at which he is entitled to vote, may, in all cases, vote by his proxy, duly authorized in writing; *provided* that both shall be inhabitants of the same District; and that no Member shall, at any time, represent the votes of more than two others.

Sect. V. There shall be one stated annual meeting of the Counsellors, which shall be held on the day preceding the annual meeting of the Society, and in the place of the meeting of the Society.

Sect. VI. The President shall call a special meeting of the Counsellors, and shall order the Corresponding Secretary to notify the Counsellors of the same, at least fourteen days before the time of such meeting, whenever he shall deem it necessary, or whenever four of the Counsellors may request it in writing; except, when the case will not admit of delay, the President may call a meeting at such notice as the circumstances will permit.

Sect. VII. At any meeting of the Counsellors, three shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may adjourn the meeting.

Sect. VIII. Any meeting of the Society or Counsellors may be continued by adjournment.

#### ART. V. DISTRICT SOCIETY.

Sect. I. The Commonwealth shall be divided, by the Counsellors, into Medical Districts, which may, from time to time, be subdivided or altered, as circumstances may require. A District Medical Society shall be formed in each District.

Sect. II. In every District Medical Society, there shall be annually elected a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and such other Officers as such Society may see fit to choose.

Sect. III. District Societies may make their own regulations, provided they are not incompatible with the Constitution of the General Society.

Sect. IV. The Treasurer of each District Society shall collect the assessments due within his District, as soon as may be after the receipt of a list of the same from the Treasurer of the General Society. He shall, on or before the fifteenth day of December,



make a full return, to the Treasurer of the Society, of all the assessments charged on his list, with the condition of each, whether paid or unpaid ; and also transmit the amount collected by him. Such return and remittance shall be a full discharge of the demand created by the charge required in Art. III, Sect. VIII. In case any District Treasurer shall neglect to make his return, as herein provided, he shall be liable to any penalty, not exceeding ten dollars, which the Counsellors may deem proper ; and the District Society shall be required to appoint another Treasurer in his stead, who shall make his return as early as may be convenient thereafter. Any such fine shall be distributed as follows : one-fourth of the amount shall belong to the District Society ; the remaining three-fourths to the General Society.

Sect. V. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each District Society to communicate, to the Corresponding Secretary, notice of any change that may occur in his district by the death, removal, or resignation of a Member of the Society. He shall, immediately after the annual election of Officers in his District, transmit a list of the same to the Recording Secretary ; he shall have custody of all communications made to the District Society to which he belongs, and shall keep a fair record of their proceedings ; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the General Society, or the District Society to which he belongs. If the Secretary of any District Society fail to discharge any of the duties, stated in this Article, or in any others of this Constitution, which are directly connected with the interests and proceedings of the General Society, he shall be liable to a fine, under the same limitation, to be assessed by the same authority, and divided in the same proportions, and between the same parties, as in Art. V, Sect. IV.

Sect. VI. Every District Society which shall, during any year, conform to, and fulfil all the requirements of this Constitution, and which shall exhibit, to the Counsellors, satisfactory proof of the same at the annual meeting of that year, shall be entitled, at the discretion of the Counsellors, and according to their designation, to receive not less than twenty, nor more than fifty, of the volumes belonging to the Library of the Society ; the same to be deposited



as a loan with the Library of such District Society, and used as a part thereof, but to remain the property of this Society, and liable to be recalled whenever the Counsellors shall deem it necessary or expedient.

Sect. VII. If any District Society, which shall have received the afore-mentioned loan, shall afterwards neglect or refuse to discharge, in a proper manner, and at the proper time, the duties necessary to the management and well-being of the General Society, it shall be the duty of the Counsellors to recall all such privileges, previously granted, and, if need be, to direct the Treasurer of the General Society to collect all assessments and other dues of the Members of such District Society.

#### ART. VI. LIBRARY, &c.

Sect. I. The Library of this Society, Museum, Apparatus, &c., shall be kept at Worcester, and shall be under the immediate charge of the Librarian, who shall be accountable for their safety.

Sect. II. The Members of this Society, excepting such as are Members of a District Society, to which books are loaned, shall be entitled to the use of any books remaining in the Society's Library, on a personal or written application therefor to the Librarian, and giving a receipt for the same. And it shall be the duty of the Librarian to keep a record of the delivery, and the date of the same, and to preserve the receipts so given.

Sect. III. Every Member shall be allowed to retain a book from the Library one year, and no longer; at the expiration of which time, if he neglect or refuse to return it, he shall pay a fine of twenty-five cents per week, on each book, during the period any book or books shall be detained, and shall be deprived of any further use of the Library, until this is done. If any book, in the possession of a Member, shall be injured, it shall be completely repaired or replaced by him.

Sect. IV. Any Member of the Society may have one folio, two quartos, or three of a smaller size; but no more at any one time.

Sect. V. The Librarian shall cause each book belonging to the Library to be marked on the inside cover, with the following

words, viz :—"Property of the Massachusetts Physo-Medical Society," or "Gift of ——— [naming the donor] to the Massachusetts Physo-Medical Society," as the case may be.

Sect. VI. The Librarian may appoint a Sub-librarian, for the delivery and receipt of books ; and no person shall be allowed to take any book from the Library, excepting in the presence of the Librarian or Sub-librarian.

Sect. VII. When a Member of the Society applies for a book which is out, he may leave a written application for it with the Librarian, who shall retain the book, after its return to the Library, thirty days, for the person so applying for it.

#### ART. VII. AMENDMENTS.

Sect. I. All proposals to alter or amend the Constitution, shall be presented in writing, and read before the Society ; and no vote shall be taken upon such proposition until the next meeting of the Society ; except, when the case is urgent, by a vote of two-thirds of the Members present, (in which case no vote by proxy shall be allowed,) the Society may proceed to take up and act upon the proposed alteration or amendment at once.

Sect. II. A vote of two-thirds of all the Members present at any meeting, shall be requisite to the altering or amending of any article or part of this Constitution ; and in such cases, no vote shall be cast by proxy, unless the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been read before the Society, at a previous meeting.

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#### Rules and Regulations of the Society.

1. At the annual meeting of the Members, the following order shall be observed in the transaction of business :—

1st, The proceedings of the last annual meeting, and of any special meetings that have been held, within the year, shall be read by the Recording Secretary, who shall also lay before the Society the records of the transactions of the Counsellors in the year preceding, and shall report the names of those who have become Members of the Society during that time.



2d, Reports of Committees shall be called for by the presiding Officer.

3d, Attention shall be given to any proposals for alterations in the Constitution, by the Counsellors, or by any Members of the Society.

4th, Attention shall be given to any scientific communications which may be presented.

5th, Any propositions or suggestions, which may be thought conducive to the welfare of the Society, or to the general interests of Medical Science, may be brought forward by any Member ; and the Society shall, thereupon, decide by vote whether to engage in the consideration of the same.

6th, The President shall call upon the person appointed to deliver the annual discourse, at eleven o'clock, A. M.; and, if the other business be not concluded at that time, it shall be postponed until the discourse shall have been delivered.

2. When any Member shall speak in a debate, he shall rise and address himself to the presiding Officer.

3. If a Member has spoken once in a debate, he shall not speak to the prevention of another who has not spoken, and manifests a desire to speak, except by permission from the Society.

4. A Member shall not interrupt another while speaking, unless to call him to order, or to correct a mistake.

5. A Member shall not speak on any subject after the question is put.

6. A motion shall not be considered unless seconded.

7. A vote shall not be reconsidered, at the same meeting, by a smaller number than were present at its passing.

8. All proposals to alter the Constitution of this Society shall be stated in writing.

9. All printed publications shall be in octavo.



## MEDICAL RAMBLES.

## No I.

BY PROF. E. M. PARRITT.

There is a dreamy style of thought, known as reverie, which has always pleased me. Free from the restraint of all rule, it follows no one subject to its ultimatum, but capriciously plunges into an investigation ; and then, like some forensic champion, entangled in the meshes of an intricate proposition, gladly seizing a false or foreign issue, it darts off at a tangent, after a new association in the train of thought, and roves from topic to topic, untrammelled by a single restraint. There is a wild freedom about it, from which the mind reluctantly turns, to the more useful, it is true, but much more severe investigation of speculative or practical propositions. Analogous to this style of thought, is also one of writing. I scarcely know what to call it. It is not history ; it is not biography ; it does not partake of the character of a review, nor of a disquisition ; in short, it bears the same relation to composition that reverie does to thought. It squints at every thing, investigates nothing,—confines itself to no subject ; but, “like the bee roaming from flower to flower” it treats or rather *maltreats* all. It is immaterial what the caption to the article may be ; for he must be verdant indeed, who expects any connection whatever, not only between the caption and the composition, but between the several parts of the same composition. I have headed these articles of which this is the first in the series, with “Medical Rambles.” Now, if for one moment, you were deceived by this specious caption into the conviction, that it means a ramble in which I propose to gather the flowers of medical literature into an immense bouquet for the benefit of the profession ; or that I intend to draw sketches of character, maliciously slandering those who have excited my prejudices, and sycophantishly complimenting those who have secured my friendship, you are *vastly* mistaken. Then what, the *deuce*, do you mean ? Well the fact is, confidentially, dear reader, I dont know myself,

“with certitude”, what the result will be. All I know is, that I am *writing at* something ; and, as Burns once said,—

“——how the subject theme may gang,  
Let time and chance determine ;  
Perhaps it may turn out a sang,  
Perhaps turn out a sermon.”

Having thus most satisfactorily answered all questions, and given a clear idea of my intentions, as clear, at least, as are my own conceptions of them, I will, by way of additional apology, say, that I am somewhat in the position of an urchin at school, the pedagogue absent. I have been domiciled, for some months past, with a grave and dignified *functionary*,—a most illustrious(?) President of a most celebrated medical Institution,—whose weight of person,—ah—I mean character,—is such as to effectually repress all little improprieties in conduct, and check the growth of excrescences in shape of pertness on the part of individuals whose precociousness, like my own, is far in advance of their discretion. I have escaped from beneath this severe restraint, and, like a boy at large, shoes and stockings off, and *trowsers* rolled up to the knees, I am luxuriating abroad. It is true, as in the case of the boy, contemplating the time, when either hunger or nightfall will drive him to his home again, where possibly he may be arraigned before the domestic tribunal to answer for his delinquencies,—so, in mine, an occasional misgiving as to future consequences crosses my mind, and almost represses my exuberance of feeling, but with a “*who cares a darn*” feeling, I am determined to enjoy the present hour, and trust to a demure face, and *any kind* of concessions for future executive clemency.

Well, we are in Lawrence at last;—Lawrence on the Merrimack. It is difficult for one, who like myself, has been accustomed to estimate the growth and future prospects of inland villages by the agricultural resources which surround them, to clearly understand the almost instantaneous creation of large and flourishing manufacturing villages. In the agricultural districts, the size and business of the village bears a direct relation to the productions of the adjacent territory ; in the manufacturing village, to the capital invest-



ed in manufacturing. The former grows slowly, as the adjacent resources are developed ; the latter reaches its maximum the moment its capital is located. Five years since, uncultivated hills, and the barren sand-banks of the Merrimack, were all that met the eye ; now these are *teeming* with an active, enterprising, and intelligent population, and thousands of spindles and clattering looms are in active operation. Among the other attractions in this embryotic city, (I believe it is not yet chartered,) is its spacious town hall. It is, indeed, a beautiful structure, doing credit to the taste of the architect who planned it, and honor to the hand that constructed it ; but the lecture hall has one defect, for which even the beauty of its external architecture and fine internal finish can scarcely atone. I mean its unpleasant echo. In lengthy sentences, if the speaker use a rapid enunciation, he will hear his first words re-echoed before he completes his sentence ; and this intermingling of echoed words, with those he is uttering, is *very* embarrassing. I speak from experience.

But mine is a medical ramble ; and Lawrence contains several specimens of the species *doctor*, and genus *homo*, among its collections in Natural History. The habits of this biped have never been fully described, in any work on *mammalia*, to which I have had access. I do not propose, however, to remedy this extraordinary omission, nor to enter on a learned disquisition, as regards the classification and other considerations of a purely scientific character ; but, from a close inspection of their habits, I have, after due consideration, and consulting the most approved authorities within my reach, come to the conclusion, that the species *doctor*, of the genus *homo*, ought to be subdivided into two varieties, which I propose to name *mineralivorous* and *herbivorous*. I see you start at the term *mineralivorous* ; and, from the puzzled expression on your phiz, I readily anticipate your question. Now, before we proceed any farther, let me give you one piece of advice. Silence has obtained for the owl the reputation of wisdom. In these rambles, you will find many terms you cannot understand ; but, it is “extremely vulgar,” “*decidedly low*,” to ask any questions, or manifest the least surprise at words of strange sound or unmouthable dimensions. I would have you be wise, or have the reputation of being so, at least.



But, to return to the term *mineralivorous*. I do not mean *mineral-eating*,—of course not. Its etymology? What of that? I tell you, *medically*, we reason differently. I grant, if you were to decide the question, influenced by the apparent sincerity with which each of the varieties urge upon their patients the use of these respective articles, the decision would be in favor of the etymology of the word. But, I tell you, such a decision would ruin your reputation at once, among scientific observers. They would readily see, that your observations were of a very superficial character, and that you have yet to learn one very important item in a medical education: viz,—to avoid taking medicine. But, I see you are not initiated; and, for your especial benefit, I will now make a confidential communication. All doctors, of both the varieties, keep their remedies to *sell*, not to *take*. Their bump of caution, in reference to these matters, is too well educated, by their daily experiments on other bipeds, to permit them, for one moment, to commit such an unpardonable indiscretion. Take their own medicines? Is your mother aware of your absence? *Mineralivorous*, therefore, means, despite its etymology, mineral-giving; and *herbivorous* has a technical meaning, at least, in this article, and means “root-and-herb-giving.” I feel somewhat exhausted by this learned disquisition, as to the proposed sub-division of the species, and the definition of the terms; but I cannot close this digression without expressing my satisfaction at this important accession to the already extensive sub-divisions of the genus *homo*.

Now, inasmuch as Botany has ever been, to me, a favorite study, I propose to examine one or two of the *herbivorous* specimens; not because they are, themselves, articles, the description of which properly belongs to Botany, but because we shall find, in their possession, many valuable items belonging to my favorite science. Here, step into this place. We are now in the office of the renowned Dr. O.—and his associate, Frank K., M. D. As you enter, you perceive, on the right and on the left, an extensive array of all kinds of nostrums. But we will not stop here; this is but the outer court. Before us is the *sanctum*, in which preside the genii of the place. To the right of this *sanctum*, as you enter, separated by a thin partition, is a room containing sundry *casks*,

with foreign brands, to the stimulating effects of the contents of which, I can bear the most ample testimony. Having thus disposed of the office and its appendages, let us turn our attention to its inmates. That tall, demure-looking chap, is the veritable Frank himself. While he is examining and prescribing for that patient, let us make some observations on the physical man; for Frank is a study worthy our attention. Frank's face is of that peculiar style which baffles description, being, in most of its prominent traits, perfectly ambiguous. It is said, that homeliness and comeliness pass into each other by such imperceptible shades, that it is difficult to draw the line of demarcation. Now, my opinion is, that, if that line were once drawn, the legitimate position of Frank's phiz would be neither to the right nor the left, but just on the line. I do not claim that it is handsome; and I have the authority of a lady, a most competent witness in these matters, for saying, "it is far from *homely*." But this is not the only particular in which its ambiguity consists. Look at him closely, once more. He will take no offence. Tell me, is that imperturbable countenance of the *serious* or *comic* caste? The general contour indicates the deacon, I admit; but, look at the corner of that half-closed eye, and don't you see the *devil of fun* lurking beneath the lashes? "What a fine *steady* fellow the Dr. is," remarked an old lady, with a *handsome* daughter, to me. Frank had just been making up his diagnosis of her disease, and had evidently impressed the old lady with the opinion, that he scarcely smiled once a month, and then only under the most exciting circumstances. But, hear that fellow's remark, back here in the sanctum! That is Dr. R.,—one of Frank's intimate associates, and you will perceive, from the "cut of his jib," that whoever should so far deceive themselves, as to fancy him a clergyman, would run considerable risk of being confined on the plea of insanity. But, as I said, hear his remark. "Frank is one of the b'hoys." Now, I do not know of any expression in the vernacular, so fraught with meaning as this pithy sentence. It fixes the character of him to whom it is applied, past a doubt,—class, order, genus, and species. Now, if we take into consideration, the aforesaid expression in the corner of Frank's eye,—his peculiar taste, in selecting, as his intimate, the above spe-



cified Dr. R.—, and admit, as evidence, the Dr.'s own estimate of Frank's character, as indicated in the before-mentioned expressive phrase, the balance preponderates awfully to the side of fun. But how, in the world, is the old lady so wide of the mark? And see, Frank is *doing the agreeable* to the daughter, to the evident satisfaction of the mamma, who is secretly congratulating herself on her daughter's success in securing the attentions of such a steady (?) *nice young* doctor.

Well, let us investigate, philosophically, this phenomenon. I lay down, as a basis for my subsequent remarks, this fact in natural philosophy,—All objects are tinged, more or less, with the color of the medium through which they are seen. Thus, put on green glasses, and every object appears green. Now, the old lady, good old soul! look at her! All her feelings are of the sober character. She indulges, *occasionally*, a quiet smile, it is true; but, then, it is always with extreme caution; and see, she starts with horror at the sonorous cachination issuing from "*the shades*," close by. Looking through the medium of her feelings, is it at all wonderful, that she should see, in that imperturbable *frontispiece*, anything but the deacon?

But our friend, Dr. R.—, is of a "*leetle*" different material and education. He thoroughly understands, that a serious face is an indispensable qualification for a *practical joker*; and, from personal experience, he knows Frank to "lean that way." Coming under the denomination of a "whole-souled" fellow,—generous in his feelings, the gentleman in his manners, relishing a joke, and an occasional glass of—*diluted water*; he cannot, for the soul of him, see anything else in Frank than the "*b'hoy*." And, looking through the medium of *his* feelings, how could he? The fact is, as I before stated, Frank's phiz is ambiguous; and different individuals will form widely different conclusions as to the "inner man."

I am not of an envious disposition, and my Benevolence is usually marked seven, *strong*, on a scale of seven; but, I confess, I have had strange feelings, as I have scanned the lineaments, and calculated the advantages of such a map of the soul. That face is worth a thousand dollars annually, and I can show it in figures. The sober, serious portion of the community are ready to take



their affidavits, that it is the unmistakeable evidence of a saint (!!) and actually feel a sensation of awe, as they approach his saintship;—those whose *reverence* has suffered, from some extraordinary compression, and whose *mirthfulness* has been correspondingly developed, readily read in it the requisites of a “good fellow”—the qualifications which make him the soul of the social party. Thus, he has the sympathies and good wishes of each. When I contrast my own lengthened visage, which so markedly indicates my two prominent characteristics, *steadiness* and *taciturnity*, I confess I experience some little unpleasant feelings towards Frank.

But all ambiguity ends with the face; and the moment we are admitted to his acquaintance, all doubt vanishes. We then behold the marks of thought, as well as the scintillations of wit, which render him not only the agreeable companion, but the skilful physician.

Dr. O— is absent; but here is another specimen, just entering, who will occupy our attention for some time. A little above the medium size; somewhat knock-kneed, yet graceful in his person, bland in his manners, and winning in his address; his intellectual phiz, rendered still more so, by the appendage of a splendid pair of gold spectacles,—we have before us the hospitable Dr. A—.

There are two classes of character, which I have found difficult to describe; the one, on account of its being dissimilar, the other, because of its being similar, to every thing else. No parallel mathematical lines can be drawn, where, in any portion of their extent, there exists either convergence or divergence; for, this inequality in their course destroys the mathematical conception of parallelism. But not so in descriptions of character. When we institute a parallel between two characters, the lines necessarily run *in* and *out*. Their bearing is to the same points of the mental compass, but the lines by which they approach that point, are far from right lines. In short, we only expect agreement in general traits, but wide differences in detail. But, where there exists perfect agreement between the general traits and specific distinctions, you can institute no *characteristic* parallel. Our friend, Dr. A— belongs to the before-mentioned latter class. When, therefore, I attempt, for the purposes of description, a parallel between the Dr. and the thor-

oughly bred gentleman and physician, I find so marked a coincidence as to remind me more of the *mathematical* than of the *characteristic* parallel. But my business is fault finding. Dont you see the precision of all his arrangements—a little too much of an old maid. Hold! I am alarmed now in earnest. The better half of the illustrious President, mentioned in the beginning of this “Ramble,” is one of the best specimens of the article “old maid” that can be got up in any country; and, feeling “interested for the honor of the army” she never fails to visit upon the heads of all offenders against this useful(?) article of household and kitchen furniture, the most condign punishment. I, therefore, “back out” and most humbly ask pardon, for this almost unpardonable *lapsus lingue*. But, to return to the Dr.,—dont you think, that what we admire(?) so much in the old maid, is a little reprehensible in a doctor? Go into his office and all there is as neat, and orderly as the most fastidious taste could require. And then too Seth has an *awful bad* fault, which even his being ship-wrecked in his recent trip to Europe, failed to cure. I mean “*punning*,” and friend or foe who leaves “*open one door*,” or makes one luckless expression, is sure to see it reflected back, badly caricatured. Now, you see, my own grievances in this matter were of so aggravated a character as to make me seriously think of “coffee and pistols for two.” I was “raised” in old steady dutch Pennsylvania, where all are grave, honest, and unsophisticated; and the fact is, my dutch simplicity renders me particularly obnoxious to the attacks of these punning bipeds. So great is my horror of these animals, that the mere *idea* acts as an active *diaphoretic*.

But huzza, here comes the redoubtable Dr. O. ! Small “aint he?” Got a big soul “*though*,” as a donation of one hundred dollars to the Worcester Medical Institution will amply attest. Now what do you say to the “rig of this craft.” A little piratical? So the *mineraliverous* doctors say, but his friends know his benevolence to be unlimited. But dont you see *energy* in his quick movements? No grass “grows under his feet.” Always completes, the day he undertakes. If you wish to enjoy yourself, just listen to that long “*doctor yarn*” he is telling with so much zest, and, my word for it, lobelia is, as usual, the potent article by which he has accomplished



some new and most extraordinary cure. A little too radical ;—but as fine a fellow as ever dealt in pills.

But here are two other worthies just entering. That smooth shrewd little man is the spirit of the “Lawrence Sentinel”; and the Englishman, by his side, is one of the first agents by whom lobelia and other kindred remedies were introduced into Great Britain. The Sentinel has a spice of secretiveness in his character which rather predisposes him to taciturnity; but, once engaged in conversation, no one will fail to be pleased with his extensive fund of general information. He too is a reformer in medicine, and, with an independence worthy the man, occasionally makes the “Sentinel” the medium through which medical truth, as well as political light, is dispensed to his readers. The Englishman, Mr. C., handles a pen finely; and not unfrequently furnishes a fine “tit bit”, by way of communication to the “Sentinel.” Just “the least bit in the world” inclined to flattery, with the peculiar English *brogue* which always pleases the ear, and with a mind enriched by extensive observation, he insinuates himself into your “good graces,” and involuntarily you find yourself “vastly pleased” with his conversation.

He is the Phrenologist of the company; and his decisions, as regards character, are final.

Well, now, before we take our leave,—for, you perceive, with the exception of the “Sentinel” and the “Phrenologist,” who never “imbibe,” they are growing noisy,—did you ever meet with so agreeable an assembly? Gentlemanly, generous, and intelligent, their conversation seasoned with the real, genuine *Attic salt*, ready to do battle for their darling reform, and yet perfectly free from *medical* bigotry,—the *worst* of any; they are, indeed, when collected into this little *sanctum*, and the world excluded, an *oasis* in this wilderness of men. A hearty “God bless them all,” say I. My warmest friendships linger around the group.

But see, they are about to adjourn to “the shades” to discuss a dish of oysters, and we, gentle reader, will now take our leave. Speaking of “the shades” and “oysters” recalls to my mind one “purely accidental indiscretion” of mine, which happened, or rather commenced to happen, in this same little *sanctum*. And now for your especial benefit, (I begin to feel sententiously didactic,) I will



give you a bare outline of the adventure. I had been *speaking* and felt exhausted,—that is, *medically* speaking, I was in an asthenic condition ; and, of course, stimulants were indicated. After due examination and thorough investigation, it was concluded, that, not only stimulants, but also tonics were indispensable. Now cold water is a tonic, and they unanimously decided this to be the tonic adapted to my case. But the stimulant,—the class being so extensive,—called forth an animated discussion. Finally, Frank's arguments, backed up by the eloquent appeals of Dr. R., both of whom had made frequent use of it, and were ready to testify as to its fine effects upon their own systems, prevailed ; and it was decided, that a quantity of *gin* equal to half the water employed should be added to the prescription. It was claimed, that thus the disagreeable(?) effects of suddenly introducing into the stomach, a liquid, the temperature of which was several degrees beneath that of the viscus itself, and from which sedative effects might possibly result, still farther prostrating an already languid system before any reaction could ensue, would be completely avoided ; and the *gin*, being not only a stimulant but also a diuretic, would not only secure the effects of a stimulant, but also, (a most important consideration) promote the secretions. A little saccharine matter completed the prescription. Now I have a horror of all medicines, and generally resolutely refuse to take anything ; but, in this exigency, the learning of the "medical council," the scientific character of the prescription, and my own debility shook my resolution, and I submitted to the dose. I believe in the lately revived doctrine of Bischoff, viz., that those medicines which act dynamically, do it by means of electrical agencies ; and, certainly, the before mentioned prescription justifies my belief ; for, if the effects upon my system were not electrical, then am I no judge of my own sensations.

My condition was rapidly changed from that of *asthenia*, to *sthenia*, and my mind, sympathizing with my now rapidly reacting energies, assumed a new activity—an activity so energetic as to completely resist all control. It is strange what an intimate sympathy exists between "mind and matter," and how soon, when health returns, the mind grows active. But I will not now stop to draw any philosophical conclusions ; [for all my enemies, and even

not a few of my friends, are of the firm opinion, notwithstanding my earnest expostulations to the contrary, that the condition of convalescence before mentioned, was rather pathological excitement. I set this conclusion down, however, to malice on the part of the former, and a want of knowledge of the circumstances on the part of the latter. Could about six ounces of gin (the dose was repeated, as matter of course,) induce a pathological condition? Absurd.

Well, by way of congratulation on my rapid recovery, a treat of oysters was proposed, and we retired to "the shades." Now, this is an established fact in natural history: The bivalvular testaceous animals which are edible, if taken late at night, are apt to create unpleasant sensations, unless we take, in connection with them, some article of a narcotic character. A friend of mine, whose hair was formerly a glossy black, but which now, in consequence of early piety, (?) as he confidentially informs me, is turning somewhat gray at the locks, (I mention this to show he has experience,) thus explains this singular fact. The narcotic substance, acting upon the nerves of the *testaceæ*, produces in these a comatose condition, thus placing upon them a *quietus*, and preventing them from mechanically interfering with the gastric operations; and, by the time they recover from this lethargic condition, they are perfectly digested. The explanation is certainly philosophical, and is subject to but one objection, which I will state presently. The narcotic employed is generally "old Scotch ale;" and now for the objection, or rather difficulty. Occasionally, it has been noticed, by accurate observers, that the ale, instead of attacking the nervous system of the oyster, acts upon that of the patient, giving rise to symptoms of rather an urgent character, and not unfrequently inducing a pathological condition.

But, to return from this digression. We adjourned to the "shades;" the oysters were produced, and, in accordance with the before-mentioned fact, the necessary narcotic, in the shape of a glass of most delectable *Scotch ale*. By some peculiar idiosyncrasy of constitution, (such things do exist,) the narcotic operated upon the nervous systems of all the party, leaving that of the oysters intact. Up to this period, I claim for myself a condition per



fectly physiological; from this period a pathological one may have, to a certain limited extent, existed. I have certain vague impressions of feeling somewhat wealthy—of owning one half of old Pennsylvania, and of holding a mortgage, ready to be foreclosed, on the other half; but it is now so late, and I am so drowsy, I can not sufficiently collect my recollections to give a satisfactory explanation. So now, dear reader, let us close this, our first, but I hope not last, pleasant medical ramble.

## CONNECTICUT BOTANICO-MEDICAL SOCIETY.

### MAY SESSION.

*New Haven, May 14th, 1850.*

DOCT. NEWTON:—

I send you, for publication in the Journal, some portion of the proceedings of the Connecticut Society, for the present year.

The Society was called to order at 2 o'clock, P. M., by the President, J. W. Johnson, M. D.

The officers for the ensuing year are:

*President*,—HENRY F. GARDNER, M. D., Springfield, Mass.

*Vice President*,—T. F. DAVIS, Plymouth, Ct.

*Treasurer*,—C. W. JAKES, Manchester, Ct.

*Recording Secretary*,—T. S. SPERRY, M. D., Hartford, Ct.

*Corresponding Secretary*,—A. JUDSON JAKES, Central Village, Plainfield, Ct.

*Censors*,—ISAAC J. SPERRY, M. D., Hartford, Ct.

JOSEPH D. FRIEND, M. D., South Middletown, Ct.

HERVEY B. STEELE, Winsted, Ct.

JOHN HOOKER, M. D., Springfield, Mass.

JOHN T. COOKE, Norwich, Ct.

On motion of I. J. Sperry, M. D.,

*Voted*, That Prof. E. M. Parritt of Worcester be, and is hereby awarded an honorary Diploma from this Society.

The discussion with reference to the Worcester College, was indefinitely postponed.

T. S. SPERRY, *Rec. Sec.*



## PREMIUM FOR DISSERTATION ON MERCURY.

PROF. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir ;*—Will you have the kindness to give place to the following notice in the columns of the Journal ;—

Whereas, at the last meeting of the “Massachusetts Physio-Medical Society,” it was resolved, by vote of said Society, that a premium of *Ten Dollars* be awarded to any member of the profession who shall write the best dissertation on the *modus operandi* and *effect* of mercury, when given as a medicine, more particularly the *proto-chloride* of *mercury*, or *calomel*,—the dissertation to be written in common language, for public reading ;—all those intending to write are requested to do so, as soon as possible,—as, on the first of November next, the manuscript will be read by the Committee of selection, and the one chosen will then be printed, in readiness to be presented at the next annual meeting of the Society in Boston.

All manuscripts may be forwarded, sealed, to the address of the Chairman of the Committee, at Newburyport, Mass. On the first of November, he will open the manuscripts, and, on reading, select the one chosen by him. Then he will enclose them to one of the Committee, who is requested to select the one chosen by him, and forward the name of the author to the Chairman, at Newburyport. The second Committee is requested, after reading and selecting, to forward the manuscripts to the third Committee, who, on reading and selecting, is requested to enclose the name of the author of the one chosen by him, with the manuscripts, to the address of the Chairman at Newburyport, who, guided by the decision of the Committee, will procure the printing of the one chosen by the majority.

The above mode of action, is submitted, as the most expeditious and appropriate.

Committee of selection—George W. Skinner, Chairman, Newburyport, Mass.; Aaron Ordway, Lawrence, Mass.; A. W. Pratt, Providence, R. I.

Newburyport, July 15th, 1850.

## HOW TO PRESERVE THE TEETH.

In no respect, is a greater want of cleanliness displayed, than in a neglect to preserve the structure and beauty of the teeth. Many persons manifest much taste in selecting handsome material for clothing, and in having it neatly made, and properly adjusted,—outwardly personifying neatness itself; and yet, every time they open their mouths, they betray themselves, and exhibit a sight which brings to the remembrance of the spectators the comparison of “whited sepulchres.” Indeed, there is nothing better calculated to disgust any one of truly refined taste, than the sight of neglected, or black and scurried teeth. The frequent exhibition of such sights, however, is not so much owing to neglect, as to the want of information, relative to the proper articles to be used as a dentifrice,—for more than half the patent dentifrices are composed of such articles, as mechanically or chemically destroy the enamel of the teeth, and thus prevent the very object for which they are used.

Amongst the most common and most injurious articles used, is charcoal; the fine sharp particles of which soon cut away and destroy the enamel. In this way, many a splendid set of teeth has been destroyed. Those who wish to preserve their teeth, should rub them well at night with pulverized goldenseal, and brush, and rinse them well the next morning with cold water; and they will preserve the structure and beauty of their teeth much longer, than by using all the patent dentifrices that have ever come out.

*Fincastle, Ohio, June, 1850.*

S. E. C.

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AN INQUIRY.

MR. EDITOR:—

Allopathists, in this vicinity, are saying that their remedies fail of their usual efficacy; and some have the honesty to admit, that, perhaps, it would be better for them not to give any. Will not their eyes yet get open to the true light?

Yours, &c.—



## Editorial.

### WORCESTERIAN MUNIFICENCE.

Our readers will excuse us for coining the adjective which forms a part of the heading of this article. We have felt it to be due to our citizens to take this prominent notice of the liberal aid, recently afforded by individuals, in furthering the objects of the Worcester Medical Institution. By this aid, the Trustees have been enabled to secure a lovely and most eligible piece of ground, and will proceed, forthwith, to erect a magnificent and imposing edifice,—one that will afford ample accommodations in all the departments of teaching, and will seat, in each of the Lecture rooms, about *three hundred* students.

It is now designed, that the building shall be in readiness for the next Course of Lectures; but, to carry out the plans of the Trustees, they need to raise, by subscription, at least *twenty thousand* dollars. Of this sum, our own citizens have already pledged about one half, and will probably yet enlarge their subscriptions to a considerable extent. It surely will be a burning shame, if the friends in the remaining portions of the State and New England do not promptly raise the balance.

The charter of the Institution allows its Trustees to hold property to the amount of *one hundred thousand* dollars; and they are determined to make this, not merely *the Physo-medical* College of New England, but *the Medical* College of New England;—that is, they are fixed in their purpose of concentrating at Worcester greater advantages for obtaining a correct and thorough medical education, than can be found elsewhere in any of the States. We shall, even the next Spring, have a beautiful *Botanic garden*; and, to our *already competent* chemical and anatomical apparatus, we shall have added *a large increase*.

During the past year, important changes have been made in the Faculty. The number of Professors has been increased; and,



hereafter, it is designed, that, at least, six men (probably we shall have more even) shall give, not partial instruction, as hitherto in some of the departments, but *full Courses of Lectures* in their several Professorships. The lengthening of the College Term to *sixteen* weeks will favor the securing of this object.

It is but proper, before closing this article, to say, that the highly commendable munificence of our citizens owes its existence to that correction of public sentiment which has taken place, in connexion with an important change in the Faculty of the Institution. Prof. Comings had, again and again, asserted, *confidently*, that it would be impossible to obtain even a very limited amount of funds for our object in Worcester, and that one or two thousand dollars was all which could rationally be hoped for from the whole of New England. We have, all along, felt, that we knew the true reason for estimating the liberality of friends at so low a rate ; and, now that the change has been effected, and our actual position, as occupying high scientific and professional ground, is understood, we are not essentially disappointed, though highly pleased, that so marked and substantial evidence of interest in our cause is suddenly manifested. Our only disappointment is, that so many of the community whose prejudices had been against us, on account of our supposed symbolization with that ignorance, vulgarity, and empiricism which they call Thomsonism, and our retaining with us the personification of that medical faith, should be candid enough to take their stand in our favor, so immediately on learning the true character of the principles which we advocate.

We now look for and confidently expect a measure of the same liberality to be shown in other portions of the State and elsewhere. Furnish us, friends, with the pecuniary means ; and, as God gives us ability, we will, in point of advantages to those seeking a professional education, render the Worcester Medical Institution superior to any College in New England or the country.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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NO. 9.

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Communications.

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MEDICAL RAMBLES, NO. II.

BY PROF. E. M. PARRITT, M. D.

"Have you ever been to Boston?"

There is much meaning in an emphasis, or an inflection. Like the position of the hat, the *crimp* of the mouth, or the shape of the nose, they give form and feature,—in other words, *gist* and meaning to sentences. An interrogation, pronounced in a monotone, terminated by a simple upward inflection, always indicates, unless modified by the manner of the interrogator, deference for the individual addressed. When the tones are subdued, there is a

something about it of the "if it suits your convenience" character, which never fails to secure your friendliest attention. Get into a stage coach on some *accommodation* (?) line, where a vehicle originally designed to receive nine passengers, is now made the receptacle of twelve,—not in virtue of any elasticity on the part of the coach which enables it to accommodate itself to the dimensions of *the crowd*, but to a capability of condensation, (thanks to the elasticity of muscular and cartilaginous structures,) on the part of your own person, to which you submit with as good a grace as the force of surrounding *circumstances* will permit; and notice the ill natured silence which characterizes the first few miles after each has achieved the desperate enterprise of securing about six square inches of seat for his body corporate, which *under* or rather *between* other circumstances requires from sixteen to twenty inches, *running* measure.

The fact is, getting into a stage coach at the commencement of a journey, before the parties thus thrown together have any knowledge of each other, is one of those achievements to which we look back with a feeling, such as originates from having accomplished an act of desperate bravery, yet so highly spiced with the grotesque and ridiculous as to render one rather anxious to conceal his share in the transaction. All personal dignity, consequent upon the performance of some valorous act, is here absolutely out of the question. A rush, a scramble, a trampling of toes, and an exchange of angry glances, are the *Alpha* and *Omega* of the performance. Conscious of a degradation of our personal dignity, and with a vague idea of some extremely ridiculous position into which, during the general *melee*, we may have unconsciously fallen, we sit, silently brooding over our own grievances and our neighbor's selfishness, until your companion opposite, in the deferential tone and manner before described, asks you a question; when, *presto*-change, the gloom is expelled from your own brow, you feel relieved, and gladly engage in conversation. The genial influence spreads from man to man, brows relax, eyes cease to flash, and the "milk of human kindness" exhibits itself through the coach in a thousand little acts of courtesy. Our fat friend, instead of dilating his already overgrown dimensions, uses every exertion to contract them,—in short,



the friendliest feelings, and not unfrequently the warmest friendships are contracted under circumstances such as these. So much for *tone*, *emphasis*, and *inflection* in a stage coach. But the influence of these paraphernalia of language is by no means limited. The most opposite feelings, as love and hatred, respect and contempt, are equally well indicated.

“Have you ever been to *Boston*?”

Influences and characteristics always radiate *from*, never converge *towards* a centre. Like the light from the taper, or the gravity from the earth's centre, their intensity bears an inverse ratio to their distances from the *originating* point. National characteristics originate from their capitol, growing less perceptible as we recede from them. France becomes less *French* as you approach the German frontier; and one who has never been in Paris, can scarcely be called a Frenchman. Different portions of the United States are characterized by certain peculiarities, all emanating from different centres. No one living in our South Western States can be truly said to have seen the Southern people, and their habits, manners, feelings, and motives of action, if he has not visited New Orleans, the great emporium of the West and South,—the centre from whence radiates concentrated *Southernism*. The Pennsylvanian who has never visited “old Philadelphia” is scarcely fit to exercise the elective franchise; in short, to use a phrase now beginning to assume respectability, this is the only city in which, (for that latitude,) he “can see the elephant.” In the New England States, Boston is the great centre,—the only acknowledged standard of yankee virtues, and yankee vices. The true specimen of the *live yankee* can only receive his last *touches* and *finishings*, in the “city of notions.” “They dont do so in Boston,” is always reserved for the *dernier* resort, when all other arguments fail to convince an obstinate opponent, as regards the propriety of some arrangement. An appeal to this standard is final, and woe betide the man who proves infidel to it. From what has been said, you will at once see the necessity, imposed on every man, woman, and child, over three years old, of visiting Boston; for Boston is New England concentrated, and, as you recede from it, *yankeeism* becomes less intense. Boston is emphatically the emporium of New-England,

from whence are distributed the staple characteristics of the true yankee ; and, in as much as he prefers the *fresh* to the *imported* article, he chooses to go to Boston and “purchase from the manufacturer.”

“Have you never been in *Boston* ?”

I have frequently thought, that the muscle denominated by anatomists the *levator labii superioris alæque nasi* was largely developed in ladies, and that much of the contempt which they can so effectually throw into language, is dependent upon the exercise of this same muscle. If you have any taste for anatomy, just offend one of the dear creatures ; and, if the wings of the nose do not immediately *twitch* upward *most awfully*, then am I mistaken. True, it is a dangerous experiment, and one which no sane man is willing to repeat ; but I merely suggest it to those connoisseurs whose love of anatomy is far in advance of their discretion. Oh there is something peculiarly acrid in that toss of the head, and twitch of the nose, which always chills me, (I am an extremely *tender-hearted man*,) arousing me from either my waking or my sleeping dreams, and reminding me of the deference due the *gentler* (?) sex.

Now, gentle reader, a great many wise men, amongst whom Lavater stands prominent, have set this down as a fact in Physiognomy ; viz, that thin compressed lips, and an aquiline nasal organ of small size, the walls of which are extremely attenuated, is an indubitable evidence of the Xantippean propensity. I beg leave to differ from the before-mentioned authority, and will introduce an argument to disprove it, or rather to prove that the propensity is not confined to the proprietors of small noses. It is evident, (speaking anatomically,) that the size of the before-mentioned *levator labii superioris alæque nasi* will be proportionate to the dimension of the nasal appendage. Now, since the quantity of motion of which any muscle is capable, is dependent upon its magnitude, it follows, that the lady who wields a large nose, (I look upon the remaining features as mere appendages,) will necessarily be enabled to execute that *chef-d'oeuvre* of female movements, vulgarly known as “turning up the nose,” to far greater perfection, than she who is the mistress of a smaller specimen. But this grand female manœuvre is an adverb, expressive of the most sovereign



contempt ; and, when performed at the close of a sentence, modifies the whole,—nouns and connectives, (an *exception*, to which I would most respectfully invite the attention of grammarians,) as well as the adjectives, verbs, and participles. But, since the stinging pungency of “*a scolding*” is dependent upon the contempt manifested by the speaker, it follows, that, if a lady with a small nose can scold *some*, one with a large one must be *awful*.

“*Never* been in Boston !” Ugh ! look at her. Have you some anti-spasmodic tincture in your pocket ? There, I feel somewhat better.

“Do tell ! Have you *never* been in *Boston* ?”

Kindness in *that* inflection : and yet a tone indicative of commiseration for this defect in our *trained*. Man is not only a gregarious but also an imitative animal. Hence the philosophy of the adage, “When in Rome, *do* as Romans do.” Now, if you will excuse the parody, since we are in New England, had we not better “do as *yankees* do ?” True, I had intended our second “ramble” should be in the pleasant “city of spindles ;” but we can never “squeeze through,” unless we perform a pilgrimage to the *Mecca* of New England. So, with your permission, we will ramble through Boston.

What a crowd of associations rush upon the mind, as you enter this *revolutionary* city, for such it is still. The restless spirit which made it the object of special persecution by the mother country, still exhibits itself in a constant series of what are now called *reformatory* movements,—movements which shake the old established usages of the nation. But ours is a medical ramble ; and, however much I am inclined to dwell upon this fruitful topic, I will confine myself principally to the “*profession*.”

Here is Hanover Street, and here is the world-wide No. 47. Here, back this way to its *rear*. But be cautious you do not tread on the dozens of Irish urchins playing in the narrow passage. Dr. Johnson’s children ? Pshaw, no such thing. Don’t you know he’s a bachelor,—an *honest* quaker bachelor ? Ha ! ha ! well the idea is rather *queer*,—a *yankee* quaker bachelor, and *Irish* children ! But here we are, right in the midst of the *Materia Medica* of the Physo-Medical physicians, the great depot from whence are drawn



a large share of the *pukes* and cathartics of the reformed practitioners of New England. This place is indeed a curiosity. From "cellar to garret," boxes and barrels are filled with contributions drawn from the vegetable kingdom, all *fresh* and in good order, picked over to remove foreign matter, woody parts, and dead portions. This favorite establishment, one of the earliest in New England, soon secured to itself a reputation for pure, unadulterated articles, (a consideration of no mean importance,)—which reputation, I am pleased to say, it still retains and richly merits. But I am so well pleased with the men, we will let their shops go, and direct our attention to them. That fine active fellow,—the head clerk,—is Mr. C.— Now I like the "rig of that craft." Attentive to his duties in packing and arranging medicines, he yet contrives to give all necessary attention to strangers and customers, evincing, by his interest in all the operations of the establishment, his adhesion to the welfare of his employer. This is as it should be, and cannot fail to secure the good will and confidence of all who approach him.

What an old sleepy chap? ha! ha! using the *friend's* dialect, that is "friend Billy," in the world's language, Dr. Johnson of the New England Botanic Depot, rear of 47 and 49 Hanover Street, Boston. Let me tell you he is not sleepy in a *deal* or in judging of *men* and *medicines*. That eye which he shuts up, as he listens to your conversation, or when he is immersed in thought, is no indication of sleep. When that eye shuts, he's widest awake. Some ill natured people, (such people do exist,) have suggested that it is a mere habit, contracted by a most inveterate winking at—(in your ear, if you please,) *the ladies* (!) to which they *do* say he was formerly prone *most awfully*. But I look upon this as a mere slander, which I am glad to have an opportunity to correct. Is he not a bachelor? Whoever winked at a lady and—escaped? I (dear reader, be warned) winked once, and—dear me, *how warm* it is. Let me have a little of that cholera syrup. By the by, this is one of the Dr.'s own nostrums, and a better article is not found in any market. In the incipient stages it is almost a specific for dysentery, and as a family medicine is unrivalled. But I have said the Dr. is a quaker, or at least he leans that way. True, you do not hear it

in his language, nor see it in the cut of his coat, or breadth of his brim, nor yet in those handsome whiskers, of which he is evidently a *little* proud, but in his straight-forward, onward course. I do not know what the character of the "Friends" is in New England; but this I do know, that, in other portions of the Union, they are noted as a class, for their intelligence, and benevolence, decorum, and honesty. They are emphatically the *vis conservatrix* of the Middle States,—the great sheet anchor of the "law abiding party" in Philadelphia. It is true, I find some difficulty in reconciling the latitude of the Dr.'s birth, (he was born "down east,") with his quaker peculiarities; but extremes will sometimes meet, as the monkey remarked on accidentally biting his caudal appendage.

In short, dear reader, if, (as you are just about "starting in the practice,") you wish to test the merits of the man and his medicines, just "buy a bill," and the experiment, I am certain, will justify my recommendation. But come, they are busy putting up a bill of goods for Bath, England;—and, wishing that the Dr. may "turn from the error of his *ways*," and take to himself one of "the daughters of men," and thus prevent the occurrence of certain "spells of despondency," into which, after some pretty customer has left the counter, he is almost certain to fall, we will take our leave, and wend our way through the crowded and crooked streets to No. 18, Central Street.

Here, we will dive into the cellar first. Do you perceive the order and neatness which characterises everything here? Syrups, extracts, and tinctures by the barrel; liquors of the choicest qualities fresh from the custom house; in short, everything you can possibly desire of this character is here, in quantities to suit purchasers, and those who test speak highly of their qualities. But is it not refreshing to see the order and neatness of this subterranean portion of the establishment? Here, up this winding flight of steps. No, no! right on,—through and up to the second floor. This on the first floor is a *caoutchouc goods* establishment, and has no connection with the remaining portions of the building, as the firm we are now inspecting will call their *conscience* to witness. There, we are on the second floor. The same orderly arrangement as in the cellar, and Botanic medicines enough to give the whole United States



“the alarming symptoms.” Back here in the rear is the counting room of the firm of B. O. & G. C. Wilson, No. 18, Central Street, Boston, the proprietors of the cellar with which, or rather with the contents of which, we have taken such liberties. Now, dear reader, anything you wish in the Botanic line, in quantity and quality to suit you, (*time* and *security* suiting them,) you can have here. Speaking of *time* and *security* suggests to me an idea, and, for your benefit, I will take this opportunity to communicate it. I have never felt, (I speak from my own experience,) any embarrassment in taking any amount of *time*, which the one of whom I am purchasing, may see fit to give; but then this *security*, ah! there’s the rub. I look upon it myself, as a relic of the dark ages, and I believe I can prove the position. When *trade* looks *dark*, and future prospects gloomy, the answer to every proposition to buy is,—can you give me *security*?” When future is gone, and friends *non inventi sunt*,—in short in the cloudy days of life—the *dark* days—people seem to think, if we are to judge from their actions, that you at least have a *quantum sufficit* of this *miserable* article *security*. Now the fact is, I have said it is a relic; but, upon a little reflection, I “beg leave to amend,”—it is a *symptom* of dark days and ages, too. Who ever had it demanded of him when the sun of fortune was shining upon him? The fact is, it is just like some of our Botanic reformers, most available when least needed. Now the “firm” under review, being reformers, in the true sense of the word, have a method of freeing you from all this embarrassment; and, inasmuch as the thing is as yet a secret, (I got it confidentially from one of the “firm,”) I will let you into it *sub rosa*. Or, upon second thought, I will give you the detail of the procedure. With your thumbs in your vest arm holes, the head thrown back, step in and present to them a bill of the articles you wish, and say to them, “Gentlemen, your best articles, at your lowest rates;” then step into the counting room, engage in conversation with that elderly gentleman, (his intelligence will pay your trouble well,) and the first thing you will know is “Your packages are put up, sir,” accompanied with a polite “Anything, else sir?” Now comes the trying time, but have no fears,—what I propose will carry you through, at least *here* in this establishment, and the *one* we before visited.



Now recollect this next step, for I look upon it as vital. Order your bill "made out and receipted." The final operation is now comparatively easy, when made out, receipted, and presented,—*pay the cash*. If they say one word to you about *security*, after such a performance, then will I go for excommunicating them from the pale of our medical church. What! you look disappointed! How to get the cash? pshaw,—entirely foreign to the subject.

But to return; if experience and business habits, a "full stock," and attention to the wants of customers, can secure success, then must these men be more than successful. Now, if you wish to see the soul,—the master spirit of this concern,—just notice that elderly *genius* sitting near the "*safe*." A little deaf, you must speak rather slowly and distinctly, not loudly. Shrewd and calculating, yet free from over cautious concealment, *frank* with his friends, and free in conversation, you will immediately feel at home in his presence, and a strong desire to prolong the interview. He is the father of the gentlemen constituting the *firm*; and, as the old adage goes, (and proves true in this case,) "like father like son,"—in short, they are "chips of the same block." But, come, we have other "calls to make."

As we go down Central Street, towards the custom house, I wish to moralize and philosophize a little. Walk slowly, we have time enough. It has been said by the enemies of our reform, that "sanative medication" or the Physo-Medical system, has of late years been on the decrease. I can now present you with tangible evidence of the falsity of the assertion. Besides the two large establishments we have just visited, there are others of equal magnitude as that of Messrs. Messer, Banker, & Co., &c. Now these are but depots, created by the demand for these innocent remedies. Look at the vast quantities which these establishments annually distribute, ye doubters, and say, Is it on the decline? Again, look at the contributions which these same venders of these medicines now feel justified in making for the erection of our College buildings. They are men of business habits, who can clearly and correctly foresee future influences; and, guided, not as enthusiasts by the promptings of the moment, or the brilliancy of the enterprise, but by the amount of patronage, as evinced by the extent of their

“sales,” which, when erected, the Institution will receive, their subscriptions are indeed liberal. Wm. Johnson—the bachelor—he has no children to support—has given us \$500. The firm of B. O. & G. C. Wilson, \$400. I feel, even if I had no other evidence of our success, as if this were an argument or rather an earnest of our onward progress, not to be mistaken. May the bread which they have cast so liberally “upon the waters” return to them, after *not* many days.

Here, step into this place, No. 50, Central St. There is a queer little genius here, at whom I wish you to take a peep. He is a dealer in West India goods, and one of the first reformers in Boston. Attaching himself to the cause of reform, when the New England people were to a certain extent subject to a medical police; when there was no sustaining public sentiment, but on the contrary a crusade was proclaimed against medical heretics; and at a time when rank, station, and social relations were sacrificed, if a man but took a *lobelia* emetic; he still retains a spice of the *exclusiveness* which never fails to characterize all reformers, and which is rarely corrected by the period of reflection which succeeds that of enthusiasm. Yet Mr. S—— is liberal in his sentiments, and, in giving aid to his darling reform, willingly yields to others the benefit of their own opinion. Identifying Samuel Thomson with the valuable *facts* which he fell upon, and seeing frequently demonstrated the value of even his (Thomson’s) limited *Materia Medica*, and its superiority over the *then* popular remedies of the Old School, he attributes to him probably an undue meed of praise, forgetting, in the merits of his remedies, the demerits of the man, and the puerility of his *medical* theories. A first rate specimen of the liberal Bostonian, he is sociable and affable in his manners, and wins his way without an effort into your affections. But, come, he is busy with a cargo of molasses, and we will not now interrupt him.

As we wend our way to Haymarket Square, I wish to present to you one idea, which it strikes me is of some importance. There are two classes of men in this world, and they are as opposite in character as day and night. The former are characterised by this *one act*; they always attach themselves to a party, or engage in an enterprise, because it is *popular*. The second class give their ser-



vices and support to any reformation, because it possesses the elements of truth. The former are rendered popular by their cause; the latter render their cause popular. The first are mere creatures or effects; the second are the creatures of effects. The first are the mere brick walls of the social edifice; the last are the noble and decorated columns which communicate character and beauty to the fabric. The former are the chessmen of the great game of life, the latter are the players. Now I am, for it is growing late, and we must soon return, about to show you two gentlemen who belong to the latter class. Here, No. 1, Haymarket Square. What do I mean by taking you into a *veterinary* surgeon's office?—Well I had some hopes of you, but I see plainly you belong to the first class of *things*. But no, don't be offended, perhaps I am a little rude; and then, in this age of humbugs, I don't know but your shyness of such a place, and skepticism as to their intelligence, is rather praise-worthy. But notice that fellow so busily engaged in conversation with the farmer. His nose you perceive is a little awry; and when he laughs notice the peculiar manner in which he draws his mouth to one side;—indeed I have, until I became better acquainted, been puzzled to decide whether the said muscular contortions were symptoms of *lachrymation* or *cachinnation*; but, by taking into consideration the general tenor of the conversation, I generally made up a pretty correct diagnosis. By his brogue you perceive he is an Englishman; and his conversation, which is always carried on in rather a subdued monotone, joined to the earnestness of his manner, never fails to make a lasting and pleasing impression. Dr. Dadd,—did I say Daddy?—Pshaw—of course not,—don't interrupt me again;—but, as I was saying, Dr. Dadd, for it is no more nor less than he, who formerly studied medicine in London, and was long engaged as a surgeon on an English vessel. During his stay in the East India Islands and on different portions of the southern coast of Asia, he had a fine opportunity of seeing the marked superiority of Botanic medication, practised by the natives in controlling the deadly epidemics of those regions, over that practised by the surgeons of vessels generally. Becoming to a certain extent a medical skeptic, he fell in with the reformers of New England; and, finding that the field of Veterinary Sur-



gery offered an extensive range for innocent medication, he determined to give respectability and popularity to what was low and contemptible. But, huzza! stand out of the way,—here comes his brother Englishman, engaged in the same enterprise, the celebrated Charles M. Wood, M. D.,—a graduate of one of the London Schools, and as good a specimen of the shrewd *good natured* John Bull as you will meet with in any city. I am pleased, that we have an opportunity of seeing them there together. You will at once perceive he is the *talker*, and Dadd the *listener*. Now just let us scan his *body corporate*. Did you ever see a face more like the full moon? And mark that kind of *comico-seriousness* which he assumes to give effect to the yarn he is retailing. How jauntily that *cute* little hat sets on his head, giving a kind of “who cares” appearance to its owner. But now the joke is told, the laugh is over, and more serious conversation engages their attention. Now scan their features; and do you not see thought and intelligence there? Listen to Dadd’s explanation of the structure of that foot. Were you ever aware, that that hoof which the smith handles so roughly, in its interior conformation, contains a most wonderful and beautiful arrangement, in virtue of which the weight of the horse is distributed over a large amount of space?—in other words, that within that horny shell there are between twelve and sixteen square feet of surface? And now that he has finished his explanation, and his attention is called to another part of his office—listen to Dr. Wood’s dissertation on that case of pneumonia in the horse. Notice the clearness of his pathological views, and his intimate acquaintance with the structures implicated, and their sympathetic connections.

Now there is one thing more that is indeed refreshing. I mean the elevated style of their language. None of the low cant which too frequently degrades this truly valuable calling; but, on the contrary, all that polish, which at once elevates it from the low depths of ignorance and vicious charlatantry, to the high and elevated position of a profession. When we reflect that these men, with an amount of intelligence which would command respect in any community, have taken hold of this *forlorn hope*, at a time and under circumstances which rendered it morally certain that they would,

by so doing, expose themselves to obloquy and contempt, with the almost certain forfeiture of the social position in society, and with the certain consequence, in this country, of association with men of low habits and no reputation, we shall see that they must possess an amount of moral courage, which rarely falls to the lot of man. Who, with the loss of social position and even reputation goading him on the one side, and the exposure to moral contamination on the other, would, under the circumstances, have turned their attention to an enterprise so unpromising? They *emphatically* have made their cause.—Certainly not their cause—they.

Pleased are you? I knew you would be. As for me, I am a student and a very verdant one; but I base my hopes of success on one trait which I think I possess, a willingness to learn; and to me it makes but little difference from whence the information comes, whether from the stable, or the College. Dr. Dadd is the author of a valuable work entitled “Dadd’s Reformed Veterinary Art,” for a copy of which, presented to me by the author, as well as for other little acts of attention and kindness, he has my heart-felt thanks.

But it is growing late, and we will wend our way to No. 138, Court St., where Mrs. W. will give us a first rate cup of tea to resuscitate the inner man. By the by, she does that matter “up right.”

Now just to *while* away the time as we are sauntering along back, I will tell you a little *incident* into which this same Dr. Wood (confound his love of fun) led me; and, inasmuch as a part of it is one of those things which I stow away among the articles labelled “*secrets*,” I hope you will not expose it. He promised to carry me out to “Spy-Pond,” West Cambridge; and accordingly the arrangement was made by which he was to call for me the next morning *early*. Now “early” in my vocabulary means between *eight* and *ten* in the morning. But unfortunately his *early* and my *midnight* proved to be exactly synonymous.

Were you ever aroused out of a deep sleep, which, in consequence of sitting up for the clock to strike twelve, is *deeper* than usual? Makes one feel amiable(!) dont it? I could moralize on the bad effects to “sweet dispositions” from this barbarous practice, “early rising;” but I forbear. Well, next morning at half past



five precisely, hurry-scurry before I was fully awake, I was away in the Dr's. carriage. He called on several *patients*, many of them presenting points of unusual interest.

At about eight o'clock we arrived at the "Pond." The morning was rather unpleasant ; yet still the beauty of the place and the taste of the hand that arranged the grounds adjacent were markedly apparent. The public house and a beautiful grove of native timber occupy a kind of *cape*, jutting out into the pond. On the margin of the pond, the owner, Mr. T. W. Seaver, has arranged a number of enclosures, in which are confined a large number of aquatic fowls, sporting in their native element. In the grove is an extensive aviary in which you will find some of the choicest singers of the feathered tribe. Two bears confined in the same grove made me think of the *far west* and its savage scenes.

"Tell that black villain to hurry the chickens and beef stake, for I am about starved," said the Dr. to an attendant, as we entered the house. The host Mr. Seaver is just such an one as I like to meet. He is a little above the medium size, somewhat inclined to be corpulent, and if I recollect right a little bald. Query ;—What could he carry in his hat to "rub the wool off?" But the breakfast was prepared, and,—pshaw, I "*give it up.*" If you can raise any thing, equal to those "chickens" or that "beef-stake," then are you more active than I take you to be. Our western "grouse" are nothing when compared to them, even when roasted on the prairie.

Well, you may rest assured we did justice to them, if not to our stomachs ;—and now for the confidential part. We finished, *literally*, the breakfast ; but, some how or other, it seems to me, it must have been purely accidental, we forgot to—*pay our bill.*

Now there is one feature in the transaction which annoys me "worse than all the rest," and I will explain it to you. Like a true philosopher, I never let the past *worry* me. Not paying the bill, therefore, is a matter of no consequence to me, even if it is to the host ; for you know it would be absurd to grieve for the past. But I want to "go back again." There's the rub. In view of my own honesty (I am a very honest man), I *do* think the Dr. is responsible for this "slip of my inexperience."



But, reader, if ever you go to Boston, and time and business will permit, don't forget to visit "Spy Pond." And, now, to the friends who have made my "trip to Boston" so pleasant, permit me to say, accept, gentlemen, my warmest wishes for your happiness and success; for *you* have contributed much to the comfort and convenience of the lonely Rambler.

"*Been to Boston?*" *Yes Sir. Hem.*

### BLEEDING IN RHEUMATISM.

In a former number of the *Journal*, I ventured the suggestion, that, in almost every instance which had come under my notice, where bleeding had been employed in Rheumatism, it was followed by metastasis. I spoke particularly of translation to the heart. I might have added, that the stomach, brain, diaphragm, and other parts of the system are liable to implication from the same cause.

So early as 1794, in a work on Morbid Anatomy, by Dr. Baillie, we have some light on the connection between this disease and affections of the heart. Since his day, almost every medical writer, on this form of disease, takes similar ground—admitting the frequency and danger of this connection. Dr. Cox says, that the majority of organic diseases of the heart, in young people, are connected with rheumatism; and, so far as the *fact* is concerned, quotations *ad infinitum* could be supplied in support of the opinion.

I have before me the testimony of some twenty writers of the Allopathic School, who attest to the frequency and danger of translation of rheumatism to some important part of the system. These authors, with scarcely an exception, recommend frequent and copious blood-letting, particularly in the early stages of the affection. If the patient be strong and robust, you may attack the citadel of life without stint or mercy. If the case before you is one of delicate mould, and physically unable to resist the sanguinary effusion, bleed with more care, but still—bleed! And, if, when nature gathers up her forces, the reaction which follows the use of the lancet determines on metastasis to some weaker organ, dose

your subject with morphine or opium, and thus carry on your work of impairing the vital energies of the system !

In tracing effect to cause, it is not too much to say, in this instance, that the translation of the local affection to some weaker and more sensitive internal organ, is occasioned by the very means which are used to cure the original difficulty. Facts and observation bear us out in saying, that the system can *never* be reduced, or the tone and vigor of the vital powers enervated by venesection, without preparing the way for some serious internal affection. Hence it is, that, while these writers adhere to the medical tenets taught by their predecessors, they are considerate and kind enough to warn the professional reader to make a strict and careful examination into the general health and vigor of the patient ; or, in other words, to discover, if possible, whether the course recommended to cure rheumatism, will or will not produce *that other* disease, which, if it does not kill immediately, will pave the way for subsequent suffering and death.

What does Dr. Duglinson mean when he says that bleeding is only admissable in vigorous individuals ? Why make a distinction in the use of a remedial agent that is so universally depended on to *cure* a given form of disease ? If the employment of the lancet is compatible with the laws of life, and is, in no way, injurious to the organism, why select the most "robust individuals," as the only proper subjects of its potency ? The truth is, experience has taught those of them who are not wholly deaf to her teachings, that the abstraction of blood is a dangerous and life-destroying process, whether resorted to in this or any other form of disease. "In the blood is the life," is continually sounding in their ears—a truth which is daily sacrificed to the promptings of prejudice and pride. A thousand cases of acute rheumatism will occur during the present year, and fall into the hands of Allopathic physicians. Duglinson, Eberle, Baillie, Cox, and a host of others say, that, if you bleed, you endanger the *lives* of your patients. And yet, every one of them will be bled ! What *for* ? Why, as Dr. Peabody says, *something must be done* ; and our "heroic brethren" will call for bowl and bandage, and let loose the "current of life," *because* the "books" say so ; while, at the same time, they admit, that this



process is the procuring cause of serious and fatal attacks on the most sensitive and important parts of the human system. In the face of this glowing inconsistency, note the impudence of a certain prize essay writer, who, after remarking that some physicians disapprove of blood-letting in rheumatism, says—

“I do not mean by this, either Thomsonian, Homœopathic, or any other pretenders to exclusive medical science. But I may remark, in this connection, that I have seen Thomsonian and various other systems of modern humbuggery faithfully tried and signally fail; and yet the same cases, notwithstanding the tampering of steam and the foolery of infinitesimal doses, yield immediately to free depletion and other appropriate remedies.”

Our indignant friend does not inform us whether the cases he had in his eye, “yielded” quietly into the arms of death, after the depleting process and the use of *other* appropriate remedies, or whether the original attack “yielded” to the invasion of a more serious affection; but he does tell us, in the course of the same essay, that “the folly of a fool should never prevent a rational inquirer from seeking knowledge.” Believing, beyond all manner of doubt, that all who read his essay will find ample grounds for attending to the correctness of this opinion, I leave the readers of this Journal to judge whether a system, which inculcates such absurdities and unblushing contradictions as I have faintly indicated, in this and the preceding article, is not more obnoxious to the charge of humbuggery, than that system which directs that the remedies administered to the sick shall be such only as act in harmony with the known laws of life,—neglecting all that tend to enervate and destroy it.

AMICUS.

*Middletown, N. Y.*



## CASES REPORTED.

PROF. NEWTON :—*Dear Sir* ;—I promised, last year, to report two more cases, which came within my knowledge. I, accordingly, send you a very brief account of them.

On Wednesday, the 6th of June, 1849, my attention was called to the case of a negro man named Peter, belonging to C. I. Burk, Esq. of this county. I found Peter with a very low, quick, and intermitting pulse, and slight delirium. I was informed, that, on the Saturday night previous, (which was the third of the month,) a negro man, named Tom, made an assault on the body of Peter, with an attempt to murder. He struck Peter with the edge of an axe, the blade of which measured 4 1-2 inches broad, and about the same in length. Tom standing rather obliquely behind to the right of Peter, the edge of the axe entered the posterior part of the right parietal portion of the skull, about one inch above the lambdoidal suture, and passed forward until the axe was introduced up to its eye. The nigh corner of the axe touched the lower part of the coronal suture, to its serious injury internally.

When the blow was struck, Peter fell, and was thought, for a time, to be dead ; but the affair was kept a secret from any white person, until the next morning (Sabbath). Some of the black friends, being anxious to hide the deed, endeavored to stop the hemorrhage, and save Peter, if they could. Hence they procured cobweb and ginned cotton, and crammed them into the orifice, until the hemorrhage ceased.

On the next morning, the blacks reported to their master, that Peter had only received a flesh-wound, and Peter, (perhaps feeling somewhat guilty in the affair,) said, that he was not badly hurt, and that he should be able to go to business by Monday morning. In consequence of his not complaining, his master did not call a physician until Wednesday morning the 6th.

On examining the wound, I found that sloughing had taken place. I removed the plugs of cotton, cobweb, &c., and found the wounds very fœtid. After washing, I introduced my three fingers. I found the membrane unbroken. I removed several pieces of the skull bone, at different times, in all 27 pieces.

My treatment was as follows. I shaved the head close, and then washed the wound daily with castile soap and water. I syringed it with No. 6, until Friday the 8th, when the patient began to feel the stimulus, having before this felt no affect of the No. 6. I then used the nerve ointment, instead of the No. 6. I gave a mild alterative treatment internally, and had the bowels strictly attended to, with enemata, until a cure was affected. I gave my attention to this case 55 days, when I dismissed it, and Peter was put to labor, at which he has continued, during regular service up to this date. He appears to be sound in body and mind.

The other was the case of a negro child, about six years of age, belonging to A. Tarpley of the State and county aforesaid.

Some time in the latter part of May, 1849, this child was thought to be troubled with worms; and, as Mr. A. T. is a strong believer in giving white powders (calomel) for worms, he administered a dose, and repeated it the third time, before he could get it to operate. Finally, the white powders commenced operating.

Up to this time, the child had been running about, but was soon prostrate. Efforts were made to check the operation, by giving laudanum in large quantities, and the patient was soon thought to be dying; and, as was the former custom in such cases, with Mr. A. T. and some others, he sent for me.

I first saw the patient on the 31st of May, 1849. I found the child very low, much prostrated with the severe purging which still continued, and in deep stupor, from the effects of the laudanum. I gave lobelia, in large quantities, with other medicines; and used the most effectual means, in my power, for three or four hours, before reaction took place. I saw the patient the next day, the first of June. He had much improved.

I was now requested to give up the care of the patient to the owner A. T. I did so, with medicine and directions to be continued several days, which were only continued one day, when Mr. A. T. resumed his own treatment, stating that my remedies were too severe. The child soon grew worse, under his mild treatment.

On the 21st of June, I was requested to see the patient again. At this time, I found him with gangrene on the right cheek, about the size of a 25 cent piece. I now gave very active and



constitutional treatment. The gangrene had extended entirely through the muscles of the cheek; but it was arrested in a few hours.

I was again requested to give up the care of the patient to Mr. A. T. I, accordingly, did so, urging upon him strict attention to the case, or the child would die. His own treatment was again resumed. The gangrene returned, and spread very fast. I called several times to see the case, and offered to insure a cure, if my directions should be carried out. But Mr. A. T. would have his own course. The child lived until the first day of July, 1849,—when it expired, with the entire loss of the muscles of one side of the face. The gangrene extended up into the right eye, and down to the throat, leaving the jaw bone bare, back to the ear, and around to the left side of the mouth, taking off nearly all the nose. Such a sight I never beheld with my eyes.

This is not the only case which I have known, wrested out of the hands of the physician, to the destruction of the patient. I have reflected much on this subject; and, long since, I have concluded, that it is time for the people to begin to think and act wisely.

D. HERRON, M. D.

*Penfield, Green Co., Ga., June 24th, 1850.*

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### DR. CURTIS' DECLINATURE.

PROF. NEWTON:—Please allow me space, in your Journal, to inform your readers, that my appointment to the chair of Theory and Practice of medicine in your Institution was made without my consent, and that I cannot accept it. Hoping that you may find some one better suited to your wishes, and more useful to your School, than I could be, I am, sir, most respectfully yours,

A. CURTIS.



## Selection.

—:—

[From the Worcester Daily Spy.]

### MEDICAL COLLEGE.

[The term, *Eclectic*, originally signifies *selected*. As applied to medicine, it ought to be used in the sense in which the editor of the Spy has it, in the following remarks. In this sense, it is used by those in New England, who belong to no medical *clique* and have no party ends to answer. Like our motto, "Seize upon truth wherever found," it ought to be understood to characterize those who are seeking medical truth, untrammelled by any theory or the influence of a professional aristocracy. It, however, having been extensively adopted, at least in some of the States, by those who are *too exclusively* the disciples of Dr. Beach, is, in the minds of many of our friends, objectionable on that account. We have ever wished, that the term might be redeemed from its limited and perverted application, and have, therefore, no objection to its use, if correctly understood. *Editor.*]

It is probably known to most of our readers, that a Medical College of the Eclectic school of Physicians, is in successful operation in this city, under a charter granted by the Legislature of the State. Measures have been in train, for some time past, to enlarge its operations and increase its means of usefulness, which have been quite successful; and arrangements have been finally made for erecting a large and commodious building for the accomodation of the Institution. Professor Parritt, who is the active agent in the matter, has been engaged for two or three weeks past, in examinations and negotiations in relation to a site for the building, and has finally secured a beautiful lot on the summit of Union Hill, commanding a fine prospect of the whole city and an extensive circuit of the surrounding country. The building, we understand, will be such as will be an ornament to the city. For further particulars, we refer our readers to the following

#### COMMUNICATION.

Permit me, Mr. Editor, through the columns of your valuable Daily, to acknowledge, on the part of the Worcester Medical Institution, the obligations felt for the prompt and efficient aid so

liberally extended. It would be gross injustice to pass unnoticed, many very liberal offers, which were *not* accepted—and express our obligations to those only whose propositions were successful. This would be to exhibit but half the munificence of your citizens. I shall, therefore, take this opportunity to do justice to all.

Early in my operations, Messrs. Lazell, Thurber, Allen, and Wheelock proposed to donate to the Institution a very handsome lot of land, and, in addition, a pecuniary consideration of no inconsiderable amount.—This donation, they proposed, at a subsequent period and pending the location of the buildings, to double. This is really the first proposition of any importance made to me as agent of the Institution; and, when we take into consideration the circumstances under which it was made, it reflects unusual liberality on the gentlemen from whom it emanated. Although the magnitude of subsequent offers *compelled* me to neglect their proffered liberality, yet I dare not neglect to express my obligations to each and all of these gentlemen; not only for the interest manifested in the location of our buildings, but for their kind and gentlemanly attentions to myself.

Shortly after, Mr. Thayer, in connection with Messrs. Colton, Jaques, White, and others, made a proposition which demands some little investigation. If, in estimating the liberality of a donation, we take into consideration the *means* of the donor,—the munificence of the gift varying *inversely* as his wealth,—then is Mr. Thayer's individual proposition the most liberal of any. The known wealth of Messrs. Colton, Jaques, and White prevents the instituting of a similar means of calculation: but the magnitude of their proposed donations does honor to their benevolence, and compares favorably with that of any other. The proposition of Mr. Jaques (senior) particularly was more than liberal; and, if he will permit me to avail myself of the opportunity, afforded by his invitation, to cultivate his acquaintance more intimately, I shall consider myself highly favored. I cannot dismiss this portion of my acknowledgements without saying, that the "mountain nymph" and its gentlemanly proprietor have more than ordinary claims to my friendship and that of our Institution.

But passing over other propositions, I come directly to that of John F. Pond; the Mayor of the City; and others. If the offers of the previously mentioned gentlemen were munificent, the fact that Mr. Pond's proposition was accepted, is an evidence that his was still more so; and now, hoping that any remarks which I may make, with reference to this location, may not be esteemed of a *partial* character, I wish to call attention to the beauty of "Union Hill," the seat of our Institution. I am aware, there is at present a sensitiveness on the subject of "beautiful locations"; and I am



somewhat in the position of one in the midst of an assembly of beautiful women, who, in consequence of the equality of the claims of the respective competitors, feels it is extremely dangerous to award the *belleship* to any;—for you can not, *in or out of* New England,—the banks of the Hudson and our own Ohio excepted,—find such an assemblage of beautiful locations, as Worcester and its vicinity present. I have been on every hill around it; and, I confess, on returning home, I have always felt as if the last one seen was the most beautiful yet. In complimenting “*Union Hill*,” I mean no disparagement to the beauty of *others*,—for, even if beaten in the competition for beauty, it would be no mean compliment to be esteemed a competitor with such a locality. The City of Worcester is located in a valley somewhat resembling an irregularly shaped Y, the Insane Hospital occupying nearly the point whence it branches. The main stem of this letter-like valley, running a little to the east of south, extends almost as far as unassisted vision will penetrate; whilst the branches, running to the north-east and north-west, are terminated by abrupt ascents. Union Hill is so located, as to command an uninterrupted view of each of these portions of the valley; and, although higher, by nearly sixteen feet, than the top of the north tower of the Oread Institute, on the opposite side of the valley (according to a proximate estimate made by Mr. Ball); yet, the ascent is such, that a horse in a carriage will readily trot to its summit. It is, indeed, where all are beautiful, a most magnificent location.

On the pinnacle of this elevation, Mr. Pond has donated to the Institution a lot of land. This, alone, would be a donation of no *mean dimensions*; but, in addition to this, he has also accompanied it, in connection with other gentlemen, by a *largess* in money. It would be invidious to mention “amounts;” and, for that reason, on this subject I am silent.

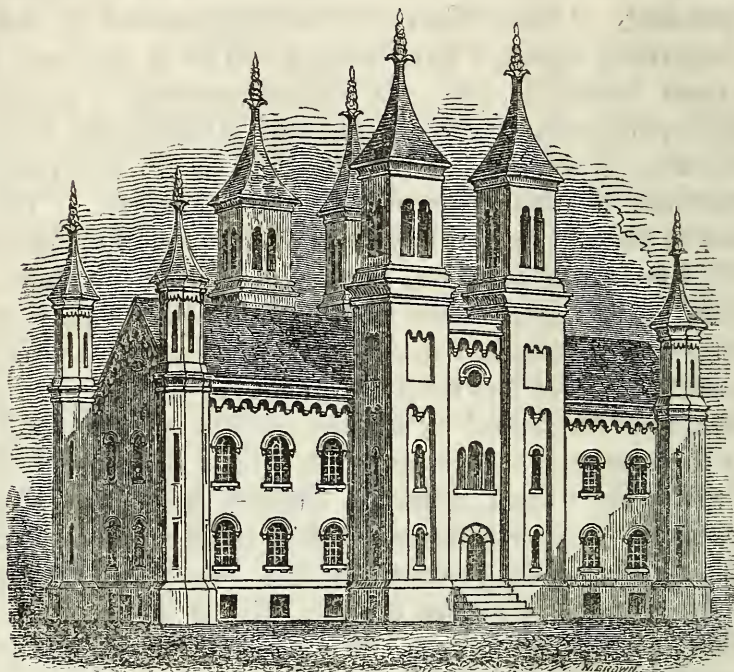
Some objections were urged to this locality, on account of *wells* being difficult “to dig”; but, Mr. Pond assures me, his friend Mr. Tower stands ready to furnish any quantity of this article, in “lots to suit purchasers.” Depending upon Mr. Pond’s representations, and knowing Mr. Tower’s capacity to—fill contracts, I unhesitatingly accepted this most generous offer; and we hope soon to see, arising from Union Hill, a building second to none in New England;—one to which the citizens of Worcester can refer with pride and satisfaction. I think, if any ladies or gentlemen will do us the pleasure of calling, when our plans shall have been accomplished, we shall be able, not only to exhibit a fine specimen of architecture, but also to furnish them with a glass of cold water, fresh from one of Mr. Tower’s best wells.

Worcester, July 31st, 1850.

E. MORGAN PARRITT.



## Editorial.



## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

## ITS EDIFICE.

The wood cut at the top of our page is a representation of the building now being erected for the accommodation of the Lectures, and other necessary operations of the College. The work is in rapid progress. Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Boyden of our city, the architect to whose taste we are indebted for the above truly beautiful design. It is, as will be perceived, of the *Romanesque* style or order, the towers serving as receptacles for the various flights of stairs to the different departments. The internal arrangement is that proposed by Prof. Parritt; and furnishes, in our humble judgment, a more convenient suit of lecture halls and their necessary adjuncts, than can be met with in any College in the country.

The first story above the basement is occupied by the *Museum*, Library, Residence of the Janitor, Dean's office, and Working Lab-

oratory of the chemical department. The lecture halls are on the second story, and are each arranged in the form of amphitheatres. The private entrances for the professors are by the smaller towers at the corners. The building presents an imposing front of one hundred and fifteen feet in length ; the main portion of the building being sixty four feet deep and the wings forty feet. We shall in this building be accommodated with every facility which well arranged rooms and large means of illustration can furnish. We are informed, the cost of the building will be between \$13,000, and \$15,000.

Through the energy of our Building Committee, we shall be enabled to hold our next Course of Lectures, in the new building. Of this we have an earnest in the known tact and "go-a-headativeness" of the contractor, Mr. Merrifield. Success is indeed perching on our standard.

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## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

### ITS EXTERNAL PROSPERITY.

After the evil forebodings of some of our *ill-natured and groveling* friends, it affords us more than ordinary pleasure to announce to the public, that the walls of a College building are actually in the process of erection, and, by the close of the present month, will be towering, in all their majesty, on the summit of Union Hill, advertising the Institution to the thousands of travellers who, urged along by the pressure of steam, weekly pass through this "railroad city."

The contemplated subscription is not yet complete ; but it is so far filled, as to justify carrying forward the work with all possible speed. We trust that the true friends of the Institution, on finding that the enterprise of erecting a commodious building for our exclusive use is actually embarked in, will not relax their aid, but come to our assistance with new zeal and confidence.

We have ever found, that the way for bodies of men, as well as for individuals, to be respected, is to respect themselves ; and, no sooner is the true position of the Physo-medical profession distinct-



ly made known and properly advocated, than friends to our cause arise, as by enchantment. We were *brought up* a farmer. Among our father's domestic animals we have, in our youthful days, often admired the beauty of the young swine. So innocent, so neat, they might be cherished as fondly as the loveliest lap-dog; but the *misery* of the matter is, that, if left exposed to mud and filth, *pigg* will plunge into them, to his own pollution and the offence of every one's taste for the beautiful. By no other comparison than this, can we ever illustrate our views of the course pursued by some who pretend to be friends to the Botanic cause. They have as inadequate notions of what is really necessary to adorn the profession, as our young quadruped has of that which renders him agreeable to the human eye. Hence, though embracing some truth, they will not allow this to appear to the public, in its appropriate loveliness; but they must *bedaub* it over with the filth of vulgarity and quackish pretence. The time has now come, in which our duty, as members of the profession, requires a distinct separation of ourselves from all those who countenance such contemptible empiricism and miserable policy.

Prof. Parritt, since the close of the recent Term, has done a good work for the Institution. Besides raising the funds necessary to enable the Trustees to proceed to the erection of the building, he has happily and successfully counteracted that current of prejudice to which rise had, to some extent, been given by the wanton abuse of those who seem to have adopted the motto, "Better reign in hell, than serve in heaven," and who have, accordingly, been trying to raise the spirit of revolt among the friends of professional truth.

By the way, Prof. Parritt is a man of no ordinary talents. We know him well; and we know, that, as a teacher of chemistry especially, he is scarcely rivalled by any man in the country. Educated in that branch of science under Prof. Hare of Philadelphia,—having had, too, all the advantages of an intellectual training at one of the literary Colleges in Pennsylvania, together with a full preparation for the *legal* as well as for the *medical* profession, he possesses an eminently disciplined mind, and is an honor to our College. Personally, we are under many obligations to him "*as a*



*friend in need*” ; and, as a co-worker in the Physo-medical cause, we cannot too highly commend his efforts. Unblenchingly devoted to the work of extending the popularity of innocent and sanative medication, he is free from those contracted views and mis-judged efforts which attach to too many well-meaning friends, and render their influence worse than useless.

We can hardly refrain from adding here, that Prof. Stockwell, though a young man, and without some of the advantages to be gained by years and experience, is yet a gentleman of taste, a scholar, and a most minute anatomist and careful dissector. Thoroughly versed in his department of instruction, he is perfectly familiar with all the technicalities and minutiae of anatomy. His talent and tact, as a teacher, are pre-eminently good. Not rapid on the one hand, nor, on the other, dull in his manner, he communicates his thoughts in the lecture room, clearly, elegantly, and impressively. Diligent in his research, and constant in his acquisitions, he has yet to rise many degrees, before he attains the zenith of his reputation, as a professional man and a teacher.

As for ourselves, our talents, such as they are, are before the world. Having been for thirty years almost exclusively devoted to literary and professional pursuits, and, for the last seven of these years, having attended primarily to investigations in pathological science, perhaps it would not be egotism in us to claim a somewhat superior preparation, for instruction in the department assigned us. But we prefer, that our associates who know our mode of instruction, and the graduates whom we have already sent out into the world, should tell this part of the story, and say whether our Lectures are anything more than “very superficial.” We, however, take the liberty to remark, that, whatever may be the *comparative value* of our instructions, we know them to be *somewhat original*, and, of course, measurably *different* from the teachings given, in this department, in any other College in the country, Botanic or Allopathic. Our earnest endeavor has been to illustrate the pathology of disease, with a minuteness and to an extent found nowhere else ; and we believe, that no *thinking* student has ever been dissatisfied with the information communicated. If dissatisfaction has ever been expressed, it has come only from a few “brainless

skulls that can—not learn.” “Those views of pathology,”—said a gentleman eminent for his scientific and professional attainments, to our students, after having listened to a few of our instructions,—“those views of pathology which are now being given you are in advance of the age.” Well, whether the commendation be deserved or not, we invite medical students, from all parts of the country, to come together at our next Course of Lectures, to commence the first Thursday in March, 1851, in our new College building; when and where they will be able to judge for themselves, as to the character of our teachings and those of our associates. If these teachings shall not be more than satisfactory, we, for one, will promise to abdicate our chair in favor of Dr. F. of Conn., who has found us to be “*a very superficial man*,”—so superficial, we suppose, that he is not able to understand but a small portion even of our superficialities—to say nothing of what lies beneath.

As to the remaining portion of our Faculty, the several Professorships are or will be filled with men of talents, and eminent in the profession. Perhaps a change or two in the Faculty, as at present existing, will be created; and the remainder of those who are now associated with us, we have not as fully proved, by personal acquaintance with their instructions. We, however, feel warranted in expressing the confident belief, that, in each department, the highest satisfaction will be given, and that, on the whole, the student will enjoy, at this College, advantages which he cannot gain elsewhere in the country.

Already have young men, from different parts of the country, begun to inform us, that they design to be members of the next Class. Our lecture rooms, when done, will each seat about three hundred individuals. We would not object to seeing those rooms well filled with attentive and eager students, and we shall expect, at any rate, a large and promising Class.



## PHYSO-MEDICAL REFORM.

[SIR :—By the authority of the Executive officers of the CONNECTICUT BOTANICO-MEDICAL SOCIETY, we are hereby authorized, and directed, to call a special meeting of said society, and to duly notify the members of said society of said special meeting, which will be holden, at Hartford, on the 12th day of September, A. D., 1850.

Prof. Alva Curtis, chancellor of the Physo-medical College of Ohio, will be present at the meeting, and an address may be expected from him in the evening.

We are directed to say by the Executive board, that, as "*the only relic of low and objectionable Thomsonism*" has "*fled*" from the Worcester Institution, it is confidently expected that measures and means will be taken in order to a course of Medical Lectures, to be given in this State, the ensuing winter. It is earnestly requested that *every* member will be present, for the purpose of having a full expression of opinion.

A delegation, from the Physo-Medical Society, of the State of New York, will meet with us, and take part in the deliberations.

Meeting to commence at 2 o'clock, on the day above mentioned.

Secretaries' Office, Aug. 20th, 1850.

HENRY F. GARDNER, M. D., *President*.

A. JUDSON JAQUES, M. D., } *Secretaries.*  
T. S. SPERRY, M. D., }

We like to have things called by their proper names. We are, therefore, pleased to see, that the friends of "Thomsonism, in the low and objectionable sense of the term," (the circular above has not quoted with verbal accuracy,) are uniting their interests and rallying under *appropriate colors*. They openly avow the above quotation as their motto. This is honest, and meets our cordial approbation.

As for ourselves, we never had any sympathy for the practice which treats one half of human diseases with *steam* and *lobelia*, and the other half with *lobelia* and *steam*. We, six years since, avowed our purpose to adopt an innocent and sanative medication only,—one whose effects on the human system are essentially in harmony with physiological laws. Our paper was commenced under the name "*Eclectic*;" but that was soon found to be objectionable, to an extent, on account of the term's becoming descriptive of the peculiarities of Beachism. We are not a Beachite, any more really than we are a strict Thomsonian. We go for an enlightened and thoroughly educated profession; and for the adoption of such



remedial agents as will rebuke disease with *the least*, and, when possible, without *any* expense to the human system.

Here we at first planted ourselves, and here we remain. Names, we admit, are comparatively nothing. It is principles to which we are primarily to look. Still, in one regard, even names have an importance. Most men decide, at once and without inquiry, on the character of a man's professional principles, by the name which he is understood to bear. And here, unfortunately, in different communities, the same epithets are differently understood.

For illustration, in almost all New England at present, (perhaps the State of Connecticut affords a partial exception,) the name Thomsonian is being restricted to such as discountenance improvement and adhere rigidly to Samuel Thomson's practice of giving *a course of medicine* for nearly every disease, paying no regard to its pathological features. And, almost or quite inseparably connected with the character of these men are the proverbial grossness, vulgarity, and licentiousness which attached to that medical reformer—in the latter years of his life especially. As might be expected, many who *are* willing to accord to Thomson the praise which he deserves, in practically giving rise to an important medical reform, yet are *not* willing to be understood to sanction his ignorance and his disgusting immorality. Their purpose is to "leave the things which are behind, and reach forth unto those things which are before,"—aiming at the high mark of perfection.

But in remoter sections of the country, where the private character of the man has been unknown, his natural shrewdness and common-sense tact have excited warm admiration; and many, who, with us, are the advocates of an enlightened and thoroughly educated profession, yet choose still to be called by his name. Even in New England, we admit, that some valuable *non-professional* friends, who early received benefit from the Thomsonian practice, but whose information has not kept pace with the progress of medical reform, are still attached to the name; inasmuch as they have been so long accustomed to associate with that whatever is opposed to the errors and quackery of Allopathy. Rendered somewhat enthusiastic by an application to themselves of even the limited *Materia Medica* of Thomson, and zealous for the prevalence of his

practice, though founded in crude and but partially developed notions, they have been and still are too much inclined to fear, that, in attempting to develop an enlightened system of sanative medication, its advocates, instead of advancing, may retrograde in the progress of truth. Of course, such friends will not interpret our remarks, as having an unfavorable bearing on themselves.

But, really, for the intelligent members of the profession, in this part of the country, who have kept themselves *posted up* in the various matters pertaining to medical reform, to join the ranks of such as adhere strictly to the creed and practice of Thomson, is to act the turkey-buzzard, and feed on a putrid and disgusting mass. Our position, while it has gained and is still gaining for us valuable friends, has yet made us some enemies. The latter, have, *without a single exception*, been found in the ranks of that grovelling and contemptible class, for which we do not entertain the *first particle of respect*.

For ourselves, we are not aware of any unwillingness to accord to Thomson all the honor which he has merited; but we must own we have sometimes been amused at the glowing but sophomoric strains in which *the system of Thomson* has been eulogized, as being essentially perfection itself, and somehow the dictate of a mind possessing almost angelic wisdom. This renowned author wrote two *grand* works, entitled his Narrative and his Guide,—the former containing 228 duodecimo pages, the latter 168. In these, besides describing the medical properties of a few plants, and giving some curious but really unimportant matter, he has inculcated three prominent notions. 1st, That heat is life, and cold is death. 2d, That every man may safely be his own physician. And, 3d, that a systematic professional training is not necessary for a physician. These, as far as we have had acumen to discover, are really the sum of his peculiar views. But these are not *doctrines forming a system of medicine, nor any part of one*. They are mere sentiments, making no part of, nor having any relation to fundamental truths. Thomson, we know, did inculcate the stimulating mode of treatment, acting on the belief, that disease consists essentially in obstructions and debility; but this doctrine had long before been taught by men eminent in the medical profession, and was not



original with him. Where then is *his system*? We might ask, Where is the *first fundamental systematic* truth, which owes its birth to any originality of his?

In conclusion, we have only to add, we are bold and proud to assert, that the standard of professional attainment which the Worcester Medical Institution has set up, is probably higher than that of any College in the Union, Botanic or Allopathic. If students in the profession wish to be thoroughly trained for their high and responsible work, Worcester, Mass., is the place for their resort. If any wish for the form without the substance, and to be dubbed with the degree of M. D., when having acquired little or no professional knowledge, they will soon, we suppose, be able to secure their object, at the hands of those who avow as their motto, "Thomsonism in the low and objectionable sense of the Term."

### THE VACANT PROFESSORSHIP.

Our readers have already observed, on a previous page, the declinature of Dr. Curtis, to accept the Chair of Theory and Practice offered him by our Institution. It becomes us to announce, that the Committee on Professorships are taking measures to fill the vacant chair in the ablest possible manner; and they, even now, have in prospect the securing of a man who stands eminent in the profession and bids fair to sustain the office with the highest honor to himself and to the Institution.

### EXTRACT OF BEEF.

Take of beef 1 lb. Remove the fat, and cut into small particles. Put it into a glass bottle, place the bottle in a kettle of cold water, set it over a fire, boil for one hour and a half. Then strain off the liquid, and season it to suit the taste. The seasoning may be done by the introduction of spices into the bottle, to suit the taste, or fulfil the indications of the disease.

Dose,—from a dessert to a table-spoonful.

This is one of the most useful preparations for food in cases in which animal food is indicated, but in which the irritable or debilitated condition of the stomach forbids its being borne in a solid state.



NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
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CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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NO. 10.

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Communications.

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VACCINATION.

[The following is from the pen of the Honorable F. W. Emmons A. M., who has recently spent some time in Europe. Mr. E. was a member of the Worcester Medical Institution in the Class of 1847. He, at that time, attended a full Course of Lectures, and has since given considerable attention to medical study. He has never, however, been a practising physician, though his professional attainments are respectable. Till now, we have never used vaccine matter fresh from the cow; and, for certain reasons, we have not yet made a fair trial of the package sent us. When we shall

have done so, we design to give our readers the results of our experience. The instructions as to the manner of preserving and using the virus are of interest. We should have been pleased, had we also had a detailed account of the manner of obtaining it, and of the circumstances of its existence in the cow.

Ed. Jour.]

DR. NEWTON ;—

*My Dear Sir*,—During my recent visit to England,—whence I have just returned,—I spent over a month in London ; and, while there, met with my old friend, JOHN THOMAS, “M. D. not D. D.” of Virginia, by whom I was introduced to the celebrated Dr. JOHN EPPES, author of sundry works, theological and medical,—at whose house, per invitation, we met again, and dined, and supped, and spent an evening very agreeably .Through Dr. E., I was introduced to the “ROYAL JENNERIAN and LONDON VACCINE INSTITUTION,” where I was furnished with ample instructions for vaccination, under the ‘Royal Seal of the cow,’ and a good supply of fresh vaccine matter. I enclose you herewith a small package, with a copy, in part, of my instructions ; which please accept and try, and, after the trial, notice, if you please, in the Journal.

My health, I am happy to say, is, as you supposed it might be, much improved by my voyages and travel ; and, though not sufficient, and I fear will not be, considering my time of life, to attend another Course of Medical Lectures, with a view of ever practicing as a physician ; yet I may, perhaps, (with your consent?) be doctor enough to serve some of my friends, as a

VACCINATOR.

CALVIN NEWTON, A. M., M. D.

*Prest. Worcester Med. Inst., &c., &c., &c.*

*Sturbridge, June, 1850.*

#### INSTRUCTIONS.

“*The Virus on Glasses* is always carefully inclosed in several folds of thin sheet lead, to preserve it from the action of the air, and to keep it as cool as possible ; yet, (when not rendered effete,

through the length of time it may be upon the voyage, and the intense heat of the climate), the vaccine ichor being hardened between the glasses, it will be necessary to dip the point of the lancet in cold water, to moisten the indurated matter, before it is applied to the arms of the patient.

*On Ivory Points.*—The Ivory Points are also inclosed in several folds of thin sheet lead. They are applied to the arms of the patient by perforating the cuticle with a lancet, then applying the Ivory Points to the perforated places. The moisture unavoidably exuded will sufficiently soften the matter applied.

*On Threads.*—The mode is, to make the slightest incision of the cuticle, to lay a portion of the thread in or over such superficial incision, then to bind it on the arm, or place a piece of court or black sticking plaster over the thread, which is to remain on till the virus produces the desired effect.

*Crusts.*—While in the small-pox vesicle, as in an ordinary blister, a single puncture lets out the contained fluid; the vaccine pock, cellular in its structure, needs many punctures, or rather a breaking down by incisions, with the lancet, to obtain the guardian matter in that abundance which the daily calls on the Institution require. The vaccine pock is similar to the *vitreous* humor occupying the largest portion of the chamber of the eye. It is a compages of vessels with their contained fluid. The *aqueous* humor of the eye escapes by a single puncture, like the virus of the variolus pock. Hence the indurated pock, the scab or crust of the vaccine pock, contains the dried matter in its cells, which, being broken down, and moistened with the wetted point of the lancet, has been found effective in hot climates when attempts to preserve the vaccine ichor in other forms have failed. The crusts or scabs we have been able to collect in this country, we learn by letters from the West Indies, have withstood the heat of their vertical sun, and spread protection through the plantations.

N. B. These crusts, when levigated and moistened, and worked into a fine pulp, have been used, by many practitioners in hot climates, with the most signal success.



## DECLINE OF MENSES.

BY W. T. PARK, M. D., LUMPKIN, STEWART CO., GA.

May 4th, I was called to a lady, Mrs. Ogletree of this county, aged fifty two years, who informed me, that she had been laboring under a disease three years, ever since her menses ceased, being unable, the most of the time, to attend to her domestic business, and, at every menstrual period, suffering the most excruciating pains. She also informed me, that, when she was first taken, she sent for Dr. S,—— an experienced Allopathist living near by, who commenced treatment and continued it nearly three years. What he gave her I can not say. Seeing that his medicines only had a tendency to aggravate the disease, and being a candid man, he acknowledged to her, that he could not cure her,—that her case was out of the reach of medicine.

Dr. D,—— another experienced Allopathist of the settlement, hearing of her lamentable situation, sent her word, that he had had many just such cases as hers, and had been very successful in curing them, and that, if she would give him a chance, he would cure her. Consequently she sent for him.

With a great deal of presumption he commenced treatment. He called for a pill box, and was presented with one that some of the family had got from me. At the same time he was informed, that some of my pepper pills had been in it. He turned away with an air of contempt, and told the family to scour it out,—he had no use for such stuff. His principal treatment was opium and asa-fœtida pills. I am not able to say what else he did for her. However, all that he did do for her made her worse. He would not allow a thing which was in the least stimulating to be given her. She endured his punishment about five weeks. Believing, that she must die soon under such treatment, she turned him off, and sent for me as the last hope of recovery.

On examination I found the following symptoms ;—whether caused in part or wholly by the original disease, I leave to the reader to judge for himself. Symptoms.—Cold extremities, weak slow

pulse, a hollow cold sensation internally, loss of appetite, hysteric symptoms, and symptoms of pregnancy, such as irritation of the mammæ, longings, and morning sickness. At every menstrual period she suffered extremely. She had cold profuse sweats every night, making it necessary to change her clothes four times each night. Early each morning a diarrhœa sat in and continued until 12 o'clock, during which time she felt chilly. After 12 and until night, she had fevers which terminated in the cold sweats. The fœces were a yellow fluid, the body was very much emaciated, and there was difficulty in urinating.

She had endeavored by every possible means to make her feet feel warm, but could not succeed. These are the symptoms as near as I can give them by memory. Treatment.—May 4th, gave a lobelia emetic and a mild cathartic to cleanse the primæ viæ. Ordered her to be washed every morning in warm weak ley water and spirits, equal parts, and rubbed dry, with a coarse towel; also ordered stimulating liniment to be rubbed over the whole surface. On account of the laxity and debility of the skin, I made the liniment of equal portions of anti-spasmodic tincture, and gum elastic, dissolved in spirits of turpentine. Ordered a tea-spoonful of No. six in a table-spoonful of strong bayberry tea to be given every two hours, commencing early in the morning, and continuing until 12 o'clock each day, and one tea-spoonful of Mattson's Female Restorative, ten minutes before each meal. To remove the difficulty in urinating I gave four ounces of the strong decoction of queen of the meadow.

May 6th. Found Mrs. O. improving, the hollow cold sensation internally was removed, discharges from the bowels not so frequent. To remove the evening fevers I ordered, in addition to the above prescription, two table-spoonfuls of the strong decoction of bone-set (commencing early in the morning) every two hours, until 12 o'clock, not giving it at the hour of taking the bayberry and No. six.

May 9th. Patient still improving, pulse much stronger, more apparent vitality in the system, appetite better, and more animation of mind. Ordered the above treatment to be continued, with the addition of an enema every day.



May 11th. Found her system much invigorated, night sweats not half so bad, diarrhœa abating, the irritation of the mammæ, longings, morning sickness, and hysteric symptoms all removed. Still there was much to do to restore her original health. I, therefore, gave her another emetic. Left some cinnamon powders to be sprinkled on all she ate. Finding sufficient vital power in the system to react, I ordered a cold shower bath to be given her every morning, immediately after getting out of bed, instead of the ley and spirit wash; and, after she was wiped dry, the stimulating liniment to be put on as before.

May 20th. Fœces natural, warm mild perspiration over the whole surface, fever broken up, feet warm, and fair prospects for a speedy recovery. Having eaten something indigestible, she felt a burden about her stomach, which I removed by an emetic. I was astonished at the effects of the cold shower bath. Without it, I could not have ever equalized the circulation or removed the profuse sweats. The shower bath was the only resort to get her feet warm. I ordered the above prescriptions to be continued and carried out promptly.

June 5th. Mrs. O. was up, and about her domestic business, and had been on a visit eighteen miles from home. To save her from a relapse, I directed her to continue the treatment a few weeks longer.

June 19th. Discharged patient well. Aug. 19th. Mrs. O. was enjoying fine health and becoming fleshy as before taken sick. She sent me word, three weeks ago, that she was spinning fourteen cuts of yarn on an old-fashioned wheel every day.

I do not expose this case before the public, thinking that I have displayed any very great skill in curing the lady; but I do it to show to the world how incompetent the *would-be scientific doctors* are to cure disease. Oh! how long will the enlightened people of these United States suffer these self-interested demagogues to rid them of their money and health? I trust, the present rapid movement of Medical Reform will soon disperse them from our land. Then may we expect to find sound constitutions, and but little for dentists to do.

Lumpkin, Aug. 24th, 1850.



## MEDICAL INTEGRITY.

It has been well said, that “an honest man is the noblest work of God.” This is emphatically true, whether considered in relation to the ordinary commerce of mankind in dollars and cents, or in an appreciation of mental and moral worth, and the applicability of the various materials about us to the production of happiness, either through the medium of the physical organization, or through the mental emotions.

How morally beautiful is the character of that man, who perceives and commends the real excellencies of right principles, men, and materials;—who sustains a defence of these principles and materials, in the midst of opposition, and at the loss of popularity and pecuniary gain,—openly contending for the right, until it becomes respected!

It is such a work as this which characterizes the truly great and honest man. A combination of the intellect, energy, integrity and benevolence of such men will ultimately place any system of measures, calculated for the best interest of men, (however despised or unpopular,) in a position of respect and prosperity. Such minds will exhibit our system what it truly is, taking higher, holier, and more humane ground, than characterizes the popular practice, which has slain its thousands.

This desirable work would soon be accomplished in regard to every philanthropic enterprise, and especially the reformation in medicine, if all who have named the name were of this stamp. There are numbers, who have assumed the practice of medicine on the reformed plan, who have no higher views or motives than the love of gain or name, and in whose hands our most efficient remedies suffer reproach,—remedies which have mainly been instrumental in crowning our labors with abundant success, rescuing thousands from an untimely grave, restoring the joyous inspiration of health to multitudes of living spectacles of wretchedness, and giving our system the character of the true, scientific, healing art. For instance, lobelia inflata, that valuable article, against which the

anathemas of the Allopathists and the ridicule of their followers have been so long hurled, is one almost indispensable in the cure of chronic and of acute disease, especially when of an inflammatory character,—one for which a substitute has not yet been found, and the virtues of which are not yet half appreciated, even by many reformers themselves,—an article to which thousands owe their existence, by its rescuing them from the deadly fangs of mercury. Many individuals, while secretly using this and other articles of the *Materia Medica*, in their practice,—articles upon which their success, to a very great extent, depends, will, in the presence of their patients and others who are prejudiced against them, deny their use, and openly ridicule them, pretending that they have something that will operate far easier and better. Thus they destroy the faith of others in the medicinal virtues of these remedies, and pursue a course calculated to foster already existing prejudices, and cast an influence that will jeopardize the lives of many who would, in due time, under honest and fair instruction, have embraced our treatment in the hour of danger and wasting disease.

In what light such characters stand to the noble minds who have defended the truth, regardless of fame or name, let the enlightened judge.

Let such forever abandon all profession of belonging to the company of those leading reformers, who have openly declared their principles, and fought their way through all manner of scorn and derision, at the expense of self-interest, and who have lived to see, as the result, the principles of their systems exerting a permanently controlling influence upon the minds of the community—being honored and embraced by many of the most intelligent and benevolent of the land. Let such remember, that they are sowing the seeds of their own downfall, and will soon reap the reward of their doings, in finding their true position outside of the ranks of the reputable, philanthropic, responsible, business men. They are despicable in the eyes, not only of their friends, but even of the intelligent and liberal of an opposite faith.

For the reputation of our cause, it becomes the truly great and self-sacrificing to keep a watchful eye to influences like these, from whatever source they may arise; while true encouragement should



be given to all honest, persevering, and faithful spirits. With the latter only, can our cause be safely trusted, and upon their efforts alone does success depend. It is they only who can be the means of establishing true principles, and of placing a correct system before the people, in such an attitude, as to receive general adoption and support.

J. C. MACK.

Geneva, 1850.

### DEBILITY.

Prof. Dunglison, in his remarks on Excitants, intimates that the doctrine of debility "is now nearly exploded." "Even so late as the time of Cullen," says he, "it was maintained, that the great indication to be followed by the therapist, in cases of fever, was to obviate the tendency to debility and death. A better attention to physiology and pathology has shown, that the great lethiferous agent in such cases is irritation" (not debility). (Ther. and Mat. Med. vol. 1st, p. 423.) The doctor's definition of the term debility, taken in connection with the above, shows, that he misapprehends the doctrine of which he is speaking. "Debility," says he, (is) "asthenia, a privation of strength, weakness. It differs from fatigue in being more permanent." (Med. Dic.) He confounds the *motor* with the *vital* force.

The great doctrine held by Hippocrates and Galen, and "maintained by others, so late as the time of Cullen," is, not that debility is an "agent," but a state or condition of inefficient vital resistance to the action of morbid causes or agents. The great indication to be followed is to obviate the tendency to prostration and death, by assisting the vegetative or nutritive power (the *vis medicatrix naturæ*) to "prevent or control" (Miller's Princ. Surg. p. 319.) the "irritation" or "excessive vital movement." "*The simple cell may be regarded as the type of organization; and its actions constitute the simplest idea of life.*" (Carpenter's Human Physiology, p. 219.) But the cell cannot act without a *stimulus*. The



stimulus of *vegetable nutrition is light.*" (Gray's Bot. Text Book, 2nd Ed., p. 149.) The vegetable cell manifests its peculiar properties, only when subject to its influence. This substance, then, is *the life of the plant*; for it is the nutrition power, the *cell* being the *agent* or *instrument*. *The primary embryonic cell of animals, does not manifest the viotic force, ere it meets with its appropriate stimulus.* In after life the stimulus is in the blood. Hence it is properly said; "*The life is the blood.*" "*The life is IN the blood.*" "*The blood is FOR the life of the flesh.*" (Genesis IX,—4, and Lev. XVII,—11 and 14.)

Whatever prevents the full free action of this stimulus—the vital principle—is a cause of *debility* and its consequence, *disease*, which is imperfect nutrition. Imperfect tissues cannot but manifest *imperfect irregular* or *diseased* actions. On the other hand, *perfect* tissues, when placed in the requisite conditions, must *needs act physiologically.* (Carp. H. Phys., p. 218—19.) Hence the whole duty of the physician is to restore and maintain the vital functions, elaboration and appropriation or organization, by removing the hinderance, be it "*irritation,*" or lack of the requisite conditions.

A. S. M.

## A REPLY.

DR. NEWTON ;—

SIR,—Although the friends of the author of *Rambles in Boston*, or "*Medical Rambles,*" value highly his intellectual attainments, business tact, and perseverance, yet they do not value highly his wit, his application, patronizingly, of epithets to his friends, many years his seniors, his use of cant phrases, or his rambles. Learned Professors are seldom witty; and, the earlier they become sensible of this truth, the more useful they will become.

Having studied the disposition, taste, and appropriate sphere of the Professor, more accurately than he has studied the taste of his

friends, in Boston, and he being absent, we may safely, and, be it remembered, patronizingly, apologize for the slips of memory, and pen, and objectionable allusions, appearing in his "Medical Rambles." Caressed, feasted, flattered, pleased, elated in Boston, successful,—the Professor forgot that his friends dislike notoriety, and he imagined every good-natured, uncontroversial gentleman, a 'genius,' and every lady, a beauty. These mistakes are excusable, however. The Professor had wandered from his sphere, and he had been many months absent from his home.

Your obt. Servant,

*Boston, Sept. 13th, 1850.*

S.

### A MEDICAL TOUR.

Dr. Newton;—Dear Sir, Having made, of late, a short tour through the north and east part of New Hampshire, on a sort of medical mission, I thought it might not be altogether unprofitable to present some incidents to the readers of your valuable Journal.

My first point of interest was at Pittsfield, at the residence of our worthy friend Dr. O. P. Warren, who, by the way, has a very convenient, and well fitted up Botanic Infirmary, where are accommodated, judiciously treated, and of course cured, a large number of patients every year. At his house I had the pleasure of meeting, on the 12th instant, a good number of the friends of the reformed practice of medicine, at a regular quarterly meeting of the New Hampshire Botanic Medical Society. It was highly gratifying to find so much talent, and such earnestness for professional advancement, as was apparent at this very interesting and useful meeting. I am happy to say, that this Society, after striving hard and long to obtain a charter, against the opposition of the united force of the whole Allopathic School, with Dartmouth College at the head, maintain a position highly creditable to themselves as reformed practitioners; and I doubt not, that the Worcester Medical Institution can look to them with much confidence for their united influence and support. They are all aware of the necessity,



at this important crisis, of a well sustained School in New England, which shall give character, and direct the current of progress in the ranks of the reformers in medicine. Sensible as they are of the deficiency of a scientific professional education, with a majority of Botanic Physicians, they hail the Worcester College in great confidence, in the anticipation of having a fixed basis, a correct foundation, on which to build a substantial system, and maintain a steady improvement upon high and honorable grounds; and they promise to exert their full influence for its support. They seem fully aware of the importance of keeping well united, certainly for the present, in maintaining but one School in New England, in the belief that more Schools than one, could not now obtain a sufficient amount of support to warrant the services of that class of Professors which the cause now demands.

After enjoying the hospitality of Dr. Warren for a day, I left Pittsfield with my friend Dr. Leach, who is well and pleasantly situated, with his interesting little family, at Meredith Bridge, and who, by the way, is doing a very extensive business, if I could judge by the number of calls he had while I was there; and, by his devotion to his profession and his consequent success, there can be no doubt, that he will reflect much honor on the diploma which he received at the last Term of Lectures at Worcester.

My next stop was at Wentworth, with my old and tried friend Dr. S. S. Stevens, formerly of Lowell; who was educated at the Allopathic School, and, with the experience of thirty-five years has learnt, that many improvements were capable of being made in the practice of medicine. His interest and influence, which are not small, will be exerted in favor of the Worcester Medical Institution; and, with the efforts of such men, who are liberal in their views, and not confined to a single idea, there can be no doubt of the ultimate success of that School.

In the morning after my arrival, I rode with him to Piermont, and removed a large Uterine Polypus. It had descended into the vagina some months since, and filled the cavity quite full, so that it was very difficult to direct the instrument in passing the ligature around its base, which was done in the following manner.—I first passed a strong silk ligature through two metallic canulæ, to which



was adapted a slide, that, when placed upon them and forced down, secured the two together at the lower extremity, and also another at the external end, that could not pass down to the lower end of the canulæ. Then, by introducing the two quite to the point of attachment, I held one with the fore finger of my right hand in its position anterior to the polypus, and passed the other, guided by my left hand, quite round to its fellow, thus encircling the tumor with the ligature contained in the canulæ, which was afterwards drawn tight and secured, after passing the two slides to their proper place,—care being taken to see, that no part of the neck or os uteri was included in the ligature. After this, the patient was placed in bed and ordered a mild but nutritious diet. Perfect quietness was also enjoined, until the ligature should come away, which was to be tightened every day.

After returning to Wentworth, I operated, with great success, upon a boy with a club foot, of the inverted variety called varus, by dividing the tendo achillis, and the tibialis posticus,—the dressing required being nothing more than a bandage so applied as to raise the toe and turn it in an outward direction, the foot coming immediately into its natural position. Then, seating myself in the stage coach and taking a circuitous route, by way of Haverhill, Newbury, Vt., White River, and Concord, I arrived safe at home, having secured the pledge of a good number of students to attend the next Course of Lectures at the Worcester Medical College.

B.

*Lowell, Sept. 18, 1850.*

## A SINGULAR CASE OF CONSUMPTION ENDING IN TYPHUS FEVER.

PROF. NEWTON ;—

*Dear Sir,*—Should you think the following case of sufficient interest for publication, in your valuable Journal, it is at your disposal. The case was that of Mr. Timothy G. Eastman of Exeter, N. H. I was called to visit him on the 25th of last June. He informed me, that he had been sick for two weeks,

during which time he complained of nausea and a deathly feeling at the stomach, sharp pain in the region of the umbilicus, slight pain in the back, and at times in the head, coldness of the extremities, constipation of the bowels, &c. The stomach rejected both medicine and food. The skin was very yellow. I adapted my treatment accordingly, giving tonics, diaphoretics, diuretics, refrigerants, mucilages, and anodynes ; bathing the surface with spirit and water.

I left him, (after giving directions for the medicines,) much more comfortable, which was on the 26th. I then returned home. I received a line from his family, on the 29th, stating he was about the same as when I left. I received another, on the 3rd of July, saying he was not so well, and wished me to come to him as soon as possible. I started the next morning. When I arrived, I found his symptoms had very much changed. They seemed to have changed to those of typhus fever, viz. nausea, and sometimes vomiting, dejected countenance, dull heavy eyes, weariness, debility, trembling of the hands, pain in the back, loins, and extremities, tongue covered with a thin whitish fur, hectic flush upon the cheek, pulse one hundred twenty, small, and irregular, confused and heavy sensation of the head, lips dry, great thirst for cool drinks, delirious, sometimes joking, at others muttering, and a tear trickling down his cheek, bowels in a torpid state, urine small in quantity and reddish, frequent hickupping; pain and oppression at the chest, and a dry hacking cough, which, he said, had troubled him for years, stomach and bowels tender on pressure.

I remained with him two or three days, at this, the second visit, during which time he seemed to be gaining a very little. On the morning of the 9th of July, I gave directions respecting the medicines and returned home, hoping he might recover ; and I agreed to visit him again on the fifteenth. During the interim, I received a letter from his family, saying he was not any better ; I answered it, and made a change in my prescription.

On the fifteenth I visited him again,—arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening, and found him dead, with his wife and children in a flood of tears. You can imagine the scene, better than I can write it. The day before he died, some of the friends, feeling anxious about



him, and fearing he would die before I could get there, called in Dr. Perry of that place. After a careful examination, he said there was no help for him, that there was a tumor in the stomach, that he discovered it more than a year before, and that medicines would only aggravate it. When informed by the afflicted wife of the doctor's decision, I was astonished; for I had often carefully examined him and had never discovered any thing more than an enlargement of the liver. I replied to her accordingly. There was nothing more said until the next morning.

There being considerable excitement about it, it was proposed to me to have a post mortem examination of the body. After obtaining consent of the family, I called to see Dr. Perry. Finding he was absent, I informed his son, Dr. Perry, Jr., of my business. He said he would inform his father as soon as he returned. While we were in conversation about it, the Dr. came in. We had a little talk respecting the case, when he stated, as before, that it was a fair case of a tumor of the stomach. I said to him that I had never discovered any thing of the kind, and asked him if he would meet me at two o'clock, that afternoon, and make an examination, so that it might be decided who was right, as it was the desire of the family. He said he would.

At the time appointed, the Dr. and his son were on hand, with several other professional gentlemen, all of whom witnessed the examination. Among them were Rev. Mr. Hitchcock, and the Principal of the Academy. Young Dr. Perry and myself made the examination. We first opened just above the umbilicus and took out the stomach. I asked him if there was a tumor there? He replied that he did not see any, but there was trouble there, somewhere. No tumor, however, could be found. The liver was nearly three times as large as usual, and had a number of ossified spots upon it. The stomach was somewhat enlarged, and the lining membrane entirely gone. It contained about half a pint of serum. The right lung was mostly consumed, and there were several ossified places upon the left. In fact, a large portion of the inward functions were in a morbid condition.

My reasons for having the above in print are to satisfy your readers, that all men are liable to mistakes; and I wish to impress



upon the minds of young practitioners—I mean those who are qualified for practice—to adhere to what they believe, and never give up until they are fairly beaten. Had I been frightened from principle, I should not have been with the living,—I mean that principle which guides every professional man. He is bound to do right. Yours with respect,

WM. LEACH.

Sept. 22, 1850.

### AN INQUIRY.

PROF. NEWTON;—

*Dear Sir*,—I have been living in——village, for several months past; and have not (within the limits of the village) been called, in a case of obstetrics, during this time. And why? There is a lady living in the place, who is well qualified, and who does, if possible, assist her sisters, when, from principle, they call upon her. The result is, my best and warmest friends, go in for any thing that is really a reform. They do not fear the sneers of the aristocracy, nor the taunts of the ignorant fashionable supporters of *learned quackery*, but form their opinions from sober every day facts. These employ Mrs.—— from principle.

A very few whose principles are in keeping with Allopathy, from a pretended modesty and a sense of propriety, or from a more potent reason which a yankee would learn from the fact that Mrs.—— asks nothing, give this lady their patronage.

Another class, whose good sense makes them afraid of poisons as medicines, but who have made a false estimate of the labors of a midwife, are easily prevailed upon to employ the Allopathic physician, (however much of a novice he may be in this part of his profession,) by the false statements,—that Mrs.—— is incompetent to the task,—and that I am certainly so, else my friends, who have been the pioneers in the Botanic cause, would employ me. The result is, that this class, having employed the Allopathist once,—and knowing the probability that they may want him again, on a similar occasion, give him their whole patronage.

I make these statements to get your views in relation to this subject. Can any thing be done to remove the evil, and no branch in Medical Reform be retarded?

Yours truly,

BOTANICUS.

### N. H. BOTANICAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted at the last meeting of the Society, and the Secretary directed to transmit a copy of the same to the Worcester Botanic Journal for publication.

Whereas the Connecticut Botanic Medical Society have taken measures for a Course of public Lectures in Hartford, in *opposition* to the Worcester Reformed Medical College, and whereas we deem a unity of action and concentration of principles and efforts necessary to sustain the cause of the Reformed Practice of Medicine in New England,—therefore,

Resolved, That we will use every laudable measure to sustain, and that we will give our full influence to support the Worcester Reformed Medical College, believing that it is necessary that a School should be well sustained which will advocate the Reformed Practice of Medicine, and convinced that the friends of the system cannot well support more than one College at the present crisis in New England.

B. KEITH, SECRET'Y.

*Pittsfield, N. H., Sept. 12, 1850.*

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## Selections.

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From the Western Reformer.

### CHOLERA.

BY PROFESSOR GABBERT, MEMPHIS, TENN.

The first indisposition should be early noticed, and the patient, if in the habit of indulging his appetite, should immediately abstain from full meals, be quiet, stay in the shade, and, should the symptoms increase, go to bed, place something warm at the feet,



and drink freely of pepper or composition tea. Should the symptoms continue, an emetic of lobelia should be given, which, in nine cases out of ten, will afford entire relief. As it frequently happens that a physician cannot immediately be procured, every body should be prepared to commence a course of treatment such as I have described, and thus many would likely be saved, that are lost, because the fatal point arrives before medical aid can be procured.

When the discharges are copious and frequent, there is no time to be lost; but a powerful change must be effected, and that immediately, or the case will prove fatal. In such a condition, the stomach generally contains a large quantity of fluid which should be evacuated immediately, for which purpose nothing is so well adapted as compound tincture of lobelia, which should be given in large doses, so as to have the desired effect immediately. As soon as the stomach is properly evacuated, give stimulants and astringents—and, as a stimulant, perhaps nothing is better than pepper and brandy, or tincture of myrrh and capsicum. Either should be given in large doses, and, if thrown up, should be repeated immediately, with the addition of a little peppermint, at the same time placing a mustard plaster over the region of the stomach, also rubbing the whole body with pepper and brandy. As an astringent, use a tea of hemlock and bayberry, or tannin, which may be easily given with tincture of myrrh and capsicum or brandy, as either will dissolve it the moment it is thrown in—it may be given in from one to ten grains, as the urgency of the symptoms indicate. I did, on one occasion, give forty grains in two hours, and success followed. I gave it in tincture of myrrh and capsicum. Astringent injections have a fine effect in some cases, if they are retained; if not, they should not be repeated. In extreme cases the patient should lie as still as possible, and something should be placed under him when he has an evacuation of the bowels, as I have found the least change of position to almost prostrate the patient. He should not raise up in the bed to swallow medicine, but let the head be raised by the nurse so as to enable him to swallow. In the use of stimulants and astringents, you may sometimes find it best to change from one article to another. Some will bear brandy alone when everything else is rejected. As soon as the operations are checked in frequency and quantity, and warmth returns to the surface, the patient may be considered as improving, and the same general treatment may be continued—lessened, however, in quantity. But, if the bowels cease their action entirely, the patient still having clammy skin, though he may rest for a while apparently easy, the case is hopeless, as it will certainly terminate in death. Whenever the patient passes urine he is safe. In the cold stage I have



found the following preparation very happy in its influence : spice, or cloves and cinnamon, simmered in brandy and sweetened with loaf sugar. Give it frequently.

We sometimes find the patient in a profuse cold sweat. In this condition, rub the surface with dry bayberry and hemlock. This will check it, if anything will do any good ; but such a condition is a very unfavorable one, and the patient rarely recovers from it.

If the patient show symptoms of fever, or inflammation increases, which sometimes happens, he should then be treated according to the indications present. However, should he be costive, use the syringe rather than purgatives, as they are dangerous in all stages of the disease.

Consecutive fevers, I presume, always arise from local inflammation, either of the stomach, bowels, or brain, and sometimes all three ; and this inflammation I suppose to be produced by the great drain of fluids from the body. Hence arises the necessity of the extensive use of fluids, and they should be of a mucilaginous nature. In truth, the patient should use freely of fluids in all cases, as soon as the dangerous symptoms are arrested, if there has been a great drain.

When fever arises, there should be an immediate resort to nauseants, if the stomach will receive them ; if not, introduce them with the syringe, and at the same time make local applications to the parts inflamed. If it be the brain, there will be great danger, and cold water should be applied to the head freely, while warm applications should be made to the feet. Give nauseating doses of lobelia and mucilaginous drinks, until the circulation is equalized. Should there be indications of inflammation of the stomach or bowels, the same kind of drinks may be administered, with an application of mustard over the parts inflamed. Charcoal may also be given freely.

If the stomach is inflamed, it will be disposed to throw off every thing swallowed. And, in such a condition, I have found a small quantity of ice water, frequently given, to have a very happy effect. In such cases the stomach is frequently loaded with a green fluid, which sickens the patient very much and gives him a constant disposition to throw up. This should be aided with lobelia two or three times a day, or as often as the indications demand. The best formula in such cases is the tincture given in sage tea. Immediately after the patient has thrown up, a dose of quinine, charcoal, and tincture of myrrh and capsicum may be given—say ten grains of quinine, four or five grains of charcoal, and half a tea-spoonful of tincture of myrrh and capsicum, all put in a gill of ice water. Should it be thrown up in two or three hours, repeat

the dose ; and, if again retained, the patient may be considered safe. But, should the first dose be thrown up in a short time (which will surely happen), repeat the lobelia, and, immediately after its action, give the quinine, charcoal, and tincture of myrrh and capsicum, as before directed. Such has been my course of treatment in the consecutive stages, and with such success that not a case has been lost in that stage under my care.

Perhaps it is proper here to mention, that many persons become costive when they are recovering from cholera, and, supposing their liver to be in fault, resort to purgatives. In this way many lose their lives, as the action of a purgative, or even a laxative, is often attended with fatal results, although the patient may have been entirely out of danger, if let alone. Consequently, I would rather have a patient go three or four days without an evacuation from the bowels, than give him a purgative. I have had several in that situation, until they were up and walking about. They all did well. Their bowels soon resumed their natural action, and they were restored to health in a very short time. After such a drain as cholera makes upon the system, the patient will not suffer by going without a passage for several days, though it is very difficult to make some believe it, as the idea has been so long and strongly impressed upon the human family, that they should be always taking something to act upon the liver. This error has unfortunately carried thousands to a premature grave.

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From the N. Y. Medical Gazette.

### QUACKERY.

In our profession the unworthy are denominated *quacks*, and their employment is called *quackery*. These are not mere nicknames, which are used to degrade rivals, or gratify malignity and spleen, as will be apparent when these words are defined and understood.

The term quack is properly applied to an *ignorant* or *unprincipled* practitioner of the healing art, and to such only. He who dares to give remedies, of which he knows *little*, in diseases of which he knows *less*, and applies them to living beings, of whose structure or functions he knows *nothing*, is demonstrably a *quack* by reason of his ignorance and temerity. While he who imposes upon the public by seeming to be what he is not, and who, for the sake of filthy lucre, sacrifices principle, honesty, and conscience, in the sale of nostrums, or specifics ; promising to cure incurable diseases ; and exacting extortionate fees from the afflicted, by taking



advantage of their ignorance or credulity, is a quack, because he is *unprincipled*. Such knaves abound in the profession, and they are such, whether with or without diplomas, and to whatever school they belong. They are all alike,—whether called allopathists, homœopaths, hydropathists, or chrono-thermalists; and whether they employ mineral, botanical, electrical, galvanic, magnetic, or metaphysical remedies.—Their ignorance and unprincipled conduct constitute them quacks; and to protect the public from being plundered and victimized by such, is the only and all-sufficient reason for the warnings against *quackery*, which the regular profession are ever reiterating through the public press. That these warnings are to a great extent unheeded, is the chief cause of the great mortality, especially in the large cities, where ignorant and unprincipled physicians abound, and where they find their most numerous victims.

Let it be henceforth understood then, that, when the medical press, in its legitimate guardianship of the health and lives of the community, denominates any practitioner of medicine a quack, it is not because he is of this sect or that, nor that he adopts different remedies from ours; but simply and only on the ground of his being either an ignorant or unprincipled man. Our maxim is, that a truly learned man, is not, and should not be called a quack, whatever modes of practice he may adopt. Such a man may become a quack, irrespective of either learning, or his medical creed, by unprincipled conduct in the profession, and then only can he justly be styled a quack, for the reason that he is a knave. But, while his conduct is irreproachable, he may be a heretic in the estimation of the regular profession, but his medical scholarship protects him from being called a quack.

We have no fellowship with the narrow views of those bigots in medicine, any more than in theology, who adopt the dogma, “My doxy is orthodoxy, and your doxy is heterodoxy.” Very different and even opposite religious doctrines are held and taught by men equally intelligent and honest, and why may it not be so in medicine? Nor do we believe that our citizens select their physicians solely, or even chiefly because of their peculiar sect or school; but rather from confidence in their general intelligence and supposed integrity. Very few of the physicians of either of the new schools deem it safe or politic to announce themselves either homœopathic or hydropathic, but call themselves by the generic name “Doctor,” thus becoming all things to all men, deeming “all fish which come to their net.” And this is the case, even with those with whom policy is the rule, and who have no medical character to lose, as well as those who craftily claim to have superadded the *new* to the *old* system, and like the fabled boatman “look one way and row



another," "hiding with the hare and running with the hounds;" treating their patients by *either* mode of practice, or *both*, if they will pay their fees. When homœopathy or hydropathy will serve their turn, such men will adopt the one or the other; but, when neither will suit the patient, they will "bleed, purge, and blister," according to Moliere's definition of a doctor, suiting their mode of practice to the market. Such men, from whatever port they hail, show that they regard "money as the chief end of man," even at the forfeiture of reputation and self-respect. Physicians call them quacks, and all honorable men, of every school, deem them out-laws. They sacrifice honor, principle, conscience, and character, for money; and "verily they have their reward."

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From the Cincinnati Daily Times.

### ELECTRO-MAGNETISM.

We learn from the National Intelligencer that the important question whether electro-magnetism is susceptible of being used as a motive power has been settled in the affirmative. Prof. Page, in lecturing before the Smithsonian Institute, has averred, that there is no doubt of the applicability of electricity as a substitute for steam. That gentleman exhibited several experiments to prove the theory. A bar of iron weighing 160 pounds was made to dance up and down in the air *like a feather*, without any visible support. He said he could raise the bar 100 feet as easily as ten inches. "He could make a pile-driver, or a forge-hammer, with great simplicity, and could make an engine with a stroke of six, twelve, twenty, or any number of feet." The Intelligencer adds:

"He then exhibited his engine, of between four and five horse power, operated by a battery contained within the space of three cubic feet. It looked very unlike a magnetic machine. It was a reciprocating engine of two feet stroke, and the whole engine and battery weighed about one ton."

The engine drove a circular saw ten inches in diameter, sawing up boards an inch and a quarter thick into laths, the engine making about eighty strokes to the minute. The *cost* of the motive power the Professor considered as cheap as the cheapest steam engines. With this he could produce one horse power by consuming a pound of zinc per day. The larger the engine, the greater the economy.

Here is another great step in the field of invention! The discovery, in all probability, is fraught with the most important consequences.

## BUCHANAN'S JOURNAL OF MAN.

EDITED BY JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D., PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND  
INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE IN THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE OF CINCINNATI.

This unique American publication appeals to all who cherish an interest in Phrenology, Physiognomy, Psychometry, Physiology, Medical Philosophy, Psychology, Mesmerism, Mental Philosophy, The Fine Arts, Education, and Human Improvement.

In each of these departments of science, this Journal is the pioneer of investigation, and embodies a series of *doctrines*, facts, and Discoveries not contained in any other work in Europe or America—being the result of original inquiry and experiment.

In Phrenology, it presents a new system, which confirms the essential truth of the discoveries of Gall and Spurzheim, but which is vastly more extensive, and is based upon the results of careful experiments upon the brain, as well as confirmed by Pathology and Cranioscopy.

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In Psychometry, it presents a new power by which we may critically investigate the characters of individuals, whether present or absent, living or dead.

In Physiology, it offers a new explanation of the sympathetic relations of all parts of the body with each other, and their connection with the mind and the brain. It developes also the *physiological functions of the brain*, thus making a new science of Cerebral Physiology.

In Medical Philosophy, it demonstrates by experiment new laws as to the operation of medicines not heretofore known in Allopathy or Homœopathy, and points out the means of perfecting our *Materia Medica*, Pathology, and Diagnosis.

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In Mental Philosophy, it gives us a vast additional mass of facts and principles, enabling us thus to survey the world's philosophical doctrines from a new point of view and discover their real merits.



In the Fine Arts, it gives us science in the place of conjecture—it shows both the philosophy and the mechanism of expression. It reveals the sources and causes of beauty or deformity, and all other excellencies or defects of the human form—as well as of *attitude*, *gesture*, and *expression*. It demonstrates the relations of Color and Music to the human brain.

In Education, it presents a beautiful and almost self-evident system, by the practice of which children at twelve years of age would be better educated than they are now at the age of eighteen in our academies and colleges. Finally, all these discoveries in the constitution of man converge to the great end and aim of all good men—which is

Human Improvement.—If we thoroughly understand the constitution of man—the laws of his development and happiness, we may then advance boldly to the universal elevation of the race. The *science of man* alone is competent to guide us in organizing society, and in promoting its happiness. Hence the paramount importance above all other sciences—of

Anthropology.—The first attempt to organize a complete system of anthropology by ascertaining all the physiological and mental functions of the brain in which man's whole being concentrates, has been made by the editor of this work since his discovery of the impressibility of the brain, in 1841, and to the propagation of his system his *Journal of Man* is devoted.

TERMS.—The first volume of Buchanan's *Journal of Man* was published from Jan. 1849, to July 1850, in twelve numbers, making more than 600 pages, with eight engravings, at the price of \$2.

Volume Second will be published in twelve numbers of 32 pages monthly, from July 1850, to July 1851, at One Dollar per Volume. The whole being stereotyped, back numbers can always be furnished. If you wish a copy, write at once to the editor (post paid), and remit the proper sum *at his risk*. You will be sure to get the *Journal*, and, if any Nos. are lost on the way, they will be replaced. (All readers of the *Journal* should provide themselves with Vol. 1, as it contains a development of a portion of the outlines of Neurology, the Anatomy of the Brain, the philosophy of Craniology, the full explanation of Human Impressibility, the science and art of Psychometry, illustrations of the principles and practice of Mesmerism, and many other important matters, making it a standard scientific work of permanent value to all who wish to acquire a knowledge of man.)

Clubs of Ten can obtain ten copies of Vol. 1 for \$15, or ten copies of Vol. 2 for \$7.

Specimen Numbers will be sent gratis to any one who desires it. Letters must be post paid.



From the Kawrence Sentinel.

## MEDICAL REFORM—BLOOD LETTING.

Last week we confined our attention to the fundamental parts of the Allopathic (inadvertently printed Homœopathic,) system, viz. the administration of poisons in cases of physical derangement. We shall, for the present, confine ourselves to a consideration of another branch of that tree, which is not for the healing, but for the extermination of all nations, and that branch is BLOOD LETTING. Any deviation from the ordinary course of nature in a man's physical condition may be considered disease. Take, for instance, a watch. If it moves too quick or too slow, it needs to be repaired—it is out of order; so it is with the human system. Whatever tends to accelerate or arrest natural pulsation is promotive of disease, and requires to be treated in such a manner as its peculiarity may suggest. Fevers and inflammations are disorders for which the patient is often bled by the supporters of Allopathy. We may naturally ask, What is the doctor's notion in bleeding? Well, that the patient is too full of blood; and, by letting a quantity out at the arm, he relieves the whole system of its superabundance of this vital element; whereas they cannot produce one solitary instance where such is the case. 'Tis true, that, in cases of fever, there is much in the system which needs to be thrown out, but which cannot, in consequence of obstruction in the porous and perspiratory system. In cases of fever, &c., there always exists a vitiated state of the fluid, and there is a morbid state of action in the excretory organs. It is self-evident to every observer, that the obstruction must be removed, or the disease continue to exist. Considerable heat is generated by the effort which nature puts forth to rid herself of the offending matter which, to some extent, constitutes the disease. It is entirely impossible, that a cure can be effected so long as those mediums of escape remain closed; and what means do the Allopathic system prescribe for the cure of this fatal malady (as it is often called)? Why, making a hole in the arm and letting out blood until the patient is too weak to move, as if this was calculated to open the porous system, generally—the most irrational idea that can possibly find entertainment in a sane mind.

If, instead of blood-letting, they would substitute the rarifying process of a vapor bath, they would, no doubt, remove the cause, and the effect would cease. This might be done in the short space of a few hours, and every vestige of the fever removed; whilst by blood-letting it will never be done, for in extracting blood they take out such as the system possesses, good and bad, and leave in

the system blood exactly similar to that which is taken out. If they could discover such a chemical apparatus as could analyze the blood, and draw out the impure, there would be some philosophy in the practice; but, so long as they let out the vital fluid, to the weakening of the system, and leave the enemy entrenched within the fortifications of this vital city, ready to perform his work of death at the most fitting opportunity, shall we view it as opposed to every principle of physiology. Similar observations will apply to many other parts of the Allopathic School, such as blistering, leeching, &c. In short, the whole system appears to be based on error, which, by the bye, is exceedingly lucrative, and this may probably be the strongest cord by which they are bound to this unnatural practice.

### GUTTA-PERCHA INSTRUMENTS.

Gutta-percha, in its application to surgery, has been brought before the Academy of Medicine of Paris. The London Medical Gazette states that "Mr. Robert read a report on a memoir presented by M. Cabirol, which spoke in favorable terms of the employment of gutta-percha for the manufacture of many surgical instruments. M. Ricord agreed with the report, with the exception that he did not concur in the opinion that the use of Gutta-percha sounds disposed, less than others, to the formation of calculous deposits. These, M. Ricord observed, are dependent upon individual peculiarities, and not upon the introduction of instruments. M. Ricord considered sounds and bougies of gutta-percha to be more durable, and superior to those of caoutchouc or wax.

"M. Velpeau had found gutta-percha bougies to yield when warmed by contact with the walls of the urethra, and from their want of elasticity lose their shape. The same inconveniences, M. Velpeau stated, had attended the use of gutta-percha pessaries.

"M. Segalas had found these sounds and bougies an improvement upon those formerly in use."—*Boston Med. & Surg. Journal*.

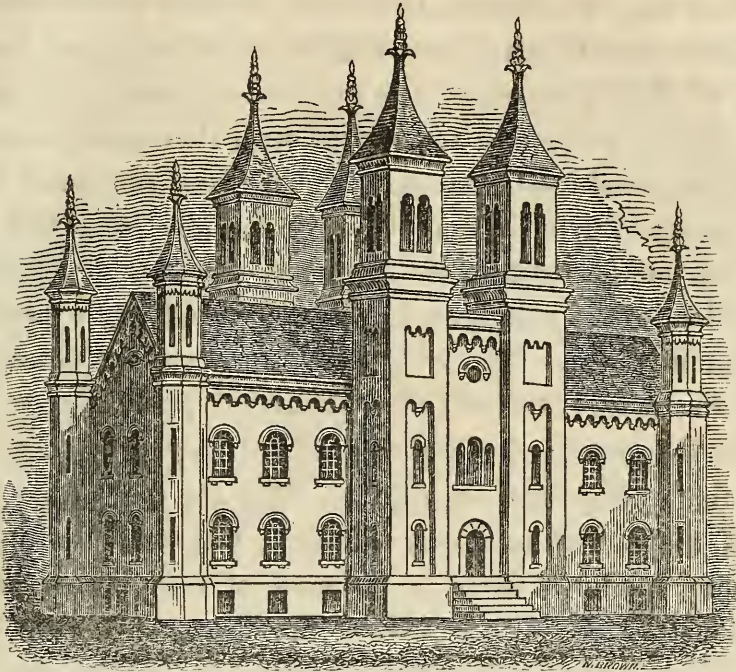
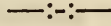
### DOCTORING.

A medical society in South Carolina, has passed a resolution that its members will not doctor the families of clergymen who recommend any but the old system of practice. A great many people think that this will be a fortunate escape for the clergymen. The resolutions add, however, that all respectful preachers adopt the old system, while those who adopt any other are only pretenders.

*Lawrence Sentinel.*



## Editorial.



[Worcester Medical Institution.]

### OBSTETRICIANS.

The question which respects the propriety of employing male obstetricians is one upon which our correspondents are divided in opinion ; and, through our columns, we have allowed those of each class to speak for themselves. Our own private views we have thus far had no occasion to express ; and now we need only say, that, if human life is worth any thing, it is vastly important, that *a portion, at least*, of those who undertake to help mothers in the hour of peril should be thoroughly qualified for their important work. Indeed, unless *all* are so qualified, there must be a degree of hazard to the lives of parturient females ; as the critical season cannot always be foreseen sufficiently early to admit the opportunity to send for better informed assistance.

We have never objected to the employment of *accoucheuses*, provided that they are properly educated and have confidence and



practical tact sufficient for the work. Nor, on the other hand, are we as averse, as are some of our friends, to the employment of *accoucheurs*, provided that, to a thorough medical training, they add the important qualification of unwavering moral integrity. And here, by the way, we would express our surprise at the almost entire indifference with what *some* families seem to regard the moral character of their physician—the man who is taken into their most intimate circles, and made acquainted with their most sacred relations. This moral recklessness, however, does not exist with all. We are happy to believe, that there are families who feel the importance of looking well to the influence which their physician exerts over themselves; and, as virtue and intelligence prevail, this class must increase. The only effectual way, therefore, for our brethren to correct the evil of a neglected patronage is to show themselves as possessing a higher grade of morality and professional talent than Allopathic physicians. We are well aware, that the reward of merit is often slowly granted: but, with few exceptions, it will come, sooner or later, to the man of uprightness and persevering industry. The only advice, therefore, which we can give our friend Botanicus, is, by a high-minded and liberal course of action, to *live down* the taunts and sneers of opponents. The Physo-medical system of practice is founded in everlasting truth—the truth of the living God, and must prevail. Of course, the truest policy, as well as the greatest amount of wisdom, is found in pursuing the strait-forward path of professional science and honesty.

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### VETERINARY COLLEGE.

We are pleased to learn the intentions of Drs. Dadd, and Hurliman to establish forthwith a Veterinary College and Infirmary in the city of Boston. We are no veterinarian, but suppose the diseases of domestic animals somewhat to resemble those which affect the human system. Still, we are aware, there must be a difference; and the means of learning the nature of any particular disease in animals must often be very unlike those by which we diagnose

disease in the human system. Hence the importance of men's being trained specially for this department of the healing art. We most heartily wish our friends success in their humane and laudable undertaking. The following is the announcement of their plans and wishes.

“The undersigned, *Veterinary Practitioners* of the City of Boston, respectfully call the attention of the people in New England to the lamentable fact, that the humane and praiseworthy science, that teaches man how to ameliorate the condition of our domestic animals, is totally neglected ;—that, in consequence of this neglect, many thousands of our most valuable animals die prematurely, occasioning not only individual but also national losses. Cruelty and ignorance, in the treatment of disease in domestic animals, have been more destructive than the pestilential sword, and will continue to exercise their devastating influence on the animal kingdom, until Veterinary knowledge shall be diffused.

“The undersigned have abundant testimony to prove, that the great mortality, among horses in particular, may be prevented. The records of the Veterinary Colleges in England, France, and Germany also prove this fact,—and that a knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, the proper management in the stable and out of it, the proper method of feeding, shoeing, watering, grooming, &c., are the medium through which many millions of valuable animals have been saved from certain destruction.

“The Almighty has endowed that noble animal, the horse, with all those moral powers, differing from ours, not in kind, but only in degree. They, like us, have memory, ideas of reflection, reason, feelings of gratitude, and duty ; and it should be the pride and duty of every man to sympathise with those who, though our slaves, have common feelings with us ; the interest of every man speaks the same language. Hence, the American people, to whom we appeal, have great encouragement, as interested individuals, to aid us in diffusing Veterinary information. The beneficial results of such information will be, that the diseases of horses, cattle, and sheep, will be better understood, and the dreadful loss which this country sustains, will very soon be materially diminished. The Veterinary science is efficient in itself, and has given unequivocal proofs of its ability to enlarge the boundaries of general medicine. It has lately acquired an importance, and received such improvements, as predicts a great revolution in this branch of knowledge.

“The undersigned propose to erect a suitable College Edifice and Infirmary, similar to those now established in Europe. This



we propose to do by the aid of voluntary contributions, for which purpose we respectfully solicit donations. If seconded by liberal contributions, our success will be immediate, and the people of New England will be enabled, with pride, to point to an Institution devoted to the cause of humanity.

GEO. H. DADD, M. D. V. S.

DR. I. I. HURLIMAN, V. S.

### P R O S P E C T U S .

“PRIVILEGE OF SUBSCRIBERS.—A subscription of one hundred dollars and upwards will entitle the subscriber to send, when sick or lame, any number of horses to the Veterinary Infirmary during such subscriber's life, provided said horses are his own personal property. No charges are made, either for medicine, attendance, or operation; the subscriber merely paying for the keeping and shoeing of said horses. In cases where it is impracticable to remove such horses from the subscriber's stable, they will receive daily medical attendance, without charge.

“A subscription of twenty dollars, entitles the subscriber's horses to medical treatment for one year, subject to the same rules as above.

“The subscribers to this Institution will have the privilege of visiting the Infirmary, Museum, &c.; and any information, relating to the managing of domestic animals, will be communicated by the Professors.

“MODE OF INSTRUCTION.—The Professors will deliver daily Lectures during the Sessional Course, (*of six months in each year*), on the theory and practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Surgical Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Chemistry. Illustrations and experiments will be conducted in the most advantageous and instructive manner. In addition to the usual Course of Lectures, the pupils will attend the daily practice of the Infirmary.

“The period requisite for obtaining a knowledge of the Veterinary art, will be regulated by the talents and industry of the pupils; yet all candidates for graduation must have attended two full Courses of Lectures, and must well sustain an examination in the different branches of Veterinary study.

“Any donations of money, or preparations adapted to facilitate illustrative teaching, in any of the departments, are respectfully and earnestly solicited.

“No subscriptions called for, unless a sufficient sum is raised to accomplish the object.”



## DR. SHERWOOD'S GOLD PILLS.

We would again call attention to the advertisement of Dr. H. H. Sherwood's Successors, in our advertising columns. Some time since, we noticed, Dr. Morse's preparation *professedly* of the same kind of remedy as is here offered to the public. To this Dr. S's. Successors objected, asserting that their own preparation only constitutes the genuine article. A friend of ours, writing us from New York, says, "I am satisfied, that Dr. Morse is grossly deceiving the public, as well as infringing the right of Dr. Sherwood's heirs."

For ourselves, we have no means of knowing whether Dr. M. really obtained a recipe for the pills from the late Dr. Sherwood, as he professes, nor whether he is capable of preparing the true article, or one as effective. We are equally ignorant whether Dr. S's. Successors have inherited a special right which Dr. M. has infringed. They charge him, however, with imposition and infringement; and our friend is of opinion, that the charge is just. Of the efficacy of the genuine pills we have heretofore expressed a decided opinion. In this opinion we remain; and we should be sorry to know, that the community are imposed on by the substitution of a worthless, for a valuable article. We are also the advocate of social rights, and would do nothing detrimental certainly to the peculiar privileges of Dr. S's. Successors. We, however, dislike secrecy in the preparation of medicines; and we hope, that those concerned will soon give to the world the full benefit of Dr. S's. discoveries in matters of the *Materia Medica*.

## APPRECIATION OF THE JOURNAL.

We receive with gratification, the evidence, that our unassuming efforts are, at length, beginning to be appreciated. When we commenced our editorial labors, a large portion of the avowed advocates of the Botanic cause were interested in such publications only as were of a popular and superficial character. Indeed, it would scarcely seem, that it was the object of their reading to gain professional information, but simply to satisfy a morbid appetite for

low ranting and harsh denunciations of Allopathic errors. We, of course, are pleased, that an important change has come over public sentiment:—that, not only the profession generally, but many non-professional readers now feel the desirableness of gaining correct medical information. With all the erroneous notions of the age, there are certainly some indications of improvement in the popular taste. Men and women, in some instances at least, are finding, that to know how to preserve their lives and their healths is really to them a more important matter than an acquaintance with all the romances and love-stories which have ever adorned the pages of fiction.

The New Graefenberg Water-cure Reporter, published at Utica, N. Y., in its May number, thus notices our periodical:

“The New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal is published on the 1st of every month, by C. Newton, M. D., Worcester, Mass., octavo, thirty-two pages. Terms, \$1,00 per annum. It is the exponent of the Worcester Medical Institution and its supporters; and is decidedly in favor of physiological and medical reform. It has made, in its volume for the present year, a decided improvement in its typographical appearance and the character of its articles.”

Again, the Physo-Medical Recorder and Surgical Journal, published by Prof. E. H. Stockwell, at Cincinnati, Ohio, under the head of Exchanges, thus remarks:

“The Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal, of Worcester, Mass., is a monthly of thirty-two pages, printed in the best style, edited by Calvin Newton, M. D.; price one dollar per year. The peculiarity of this journal is in the advocacy of the principle, “that there is no necessity for employing poisons of any kind as medical agents, and that the object in exhibiting any remedy should be, to sustain, and not to depress, the vital powers.” This Journal is an able colaborer. Its tastes and objects are high and elevating, liberal, and progressive. Faithful to innocent medication, yet tolerant to opponents; true to thorough and minute professional education, it yet liberally scatters its wisdom to *all* classes. Its editor we became acquainted with during our lecturing, this spring, in the Worcester Medical College, Mass.; and we are happy to say, that he is a thorough scholar, and, unlike men of his age, a devoted cultivator of medicine, free from professional prejudice, unsatisfied with present attainments, and still pushes his investigations with the ardor and vigor of early manhood.”



## Receipts for the Journal.

William T. Park,  
John T. Cooke,  
Sarah Hayden,

Dec., 1850.  
“ “  
“ “

B. Keith,  
Stratton & Ayres,

Dec. 1850.  
Apr. 1851.

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## To the Former Patrons of the N. E. Thomsenian Depot, 79 and 81 Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

The subscriber, having relinquished all business at the above establishment, would most respectfully introduce his friends and customers to

**MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON,**

*In rear of 47 and 49 Hanover Street.*

☞ All orders for the PHYSIANTHROPIC PILLS and DR. PIKE'S UNIVERSAL PAIN ALLEVIATOR will be filled by Mr. Johnson.

J. T. GILMAN PIKE.

Boston, April 10, 1850.

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## Magnetic Remedies of Dr. H. H. Sherwood.

### CAUTION.

The subscribers are under the necessity of cautioning the public against spurious imitations of the well known Magnetic Remedies of the late Henry Hall Sherwood, M. D. manufactured under another name, and represented to be made in the same manner as the genuine articles. The genuine remedies of Dr. Sherwood can be rightly prepared only by ourselves, from the receipt which we hold from his sole executrix, (bequeathed to her exclusively by his recorded will,) and all representations to the contrary are wholly false. They are always accompanied by Dr. Sherwood's valuable treatise on the Motive Power of the Human System, the copy-right of which is in our sole possession, duly secured according to law.

With regard to any pretended knowledge by other persons of Dr. Sherwood's Remedies, it can only deceive the credulous and unwary. Further than the general information given in his published works as to the leading articles in these remedies, Dr. Sherwood communicated nothing to others, as he assured his executrix in the strongest manner shortly before his death; and, even were it possible for any one to discover their entire ingredients, the knowledge would be wholly useless without long, minute, and elaborate instructions in the laboratory itself, and also repeated personal observation of the whole process of manufacture—the process being altogether too intricate and peculiar to be communicated in writing, and requiring the same personal experience and practice as has been alone received by ourselves.

These remedies are more successful in the cure of Chronic Diseases than any others known to the Medical profession. All communications should be addressed to

H. H. SHERWOOD'S Successors,  
102 Chambers st. New York.

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## A good chance for a Botanic Physician.

DR. M. L. PRIEST, Fall River, having concluded to change his business, offers his stock and trade at great sacrifice,—consisting of every article of fixtures, convenient for a practitioner. The location of his store is in the centre of the town.

Any person wishing a good situation will do well to apply soon. All communications post paid.

*Sent.* 11, 1849.

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## AGENCY.

The subscriber is agent for all popular weekly, monthly, and quarterly Journals.  
*Petersburgh, N. Y.*


W. R. SCRIVEN.



**J. Jackson, M. D., Botanic Physician,**

*No. 102, Court Street...BOSTON.*

House, No. 42, Poplar Street. Calls in the city and country attended to.

 Botanic Medicines, wholesale and retail.

**Thomsonian Infirmary and Medicine Store.**

DR. WILLIAM CLARK may be consulted at his Infirmary, *Nos. 80 and 82, Carver Street, BOSTON*

**Mattson's American Vegetable Practice, or Family Guide.**

SECOND EDITION, REVISED, WITH IMPORTANT ADDITIONS.

- I. Anatomy, with a Steel Engraving of the Human Skeleton, back and front view, and a number of Wood Illustrations.
- II. The Old School Practice.
- III. Vegetable Materia Medica, with twenty-four beautifully colored Illustrations.
- IV. Compounds.
- V. Description of Diseases, Treatment, &c.
- VI. Guide for Women, or Simplified Treatise of Child Birth; Description of Diseases of Females and Infants, &c.

It is generally conceded, that there is no better Botanic Work than this for families. Every Botanic Physician also should have a copy of it in his library. It has received great favor in England, and is publicly announced there, by some of the educated and prominent Physicians, as their Guide of Practice.

For sale by **WILLIAM JOHNSON,**  
the Publisher and Proprietor, at the New England Botanic Depot, rear of 47, Hanover Street, Boston, Mass. Also an extensive assortment of Botanic Medicines, and every thing that appertains to an establishment of the kind, very low, for cash or approved credit.

**NEW MEDICAL WORK!**

**"Kost's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics."**

This is the title of a new and magnificent work, designed as a text-book in this department of our system. It is of respectable size, (nearly 600 pages,) well got up, and embellished with numerous engravings, and lithographs, copied from nature. In its arrangement the work is peculiarly interesting and useful; presenting a complete collection of medical agents, simple and compound, with a full history of their Physical Character, Chemical Analysis, Physiological Effects, Therapeutic Power and Application, Pharmaceutic Preparations, &c., &c. It will thus serve, not only as a work on simple *Materia Medica*, but as a medical *Dispensatory* or *Pharmacopæia*, and should be in the hands of every practitioner.

Sold by Dr. C. Newton, Worcester, Mass; Wm. Johnson, and B. O. and G. C. Wilson, Boston, Mass.; H. Winchester, N Y.; E. Larrabee, Baltimore, Md.; S. M. Davis, Buffalo, N. Y.; J. Allen, Detroit, Mich.; W. F. Pool, Columbus, Ohio; and by the Proprietor in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Medical Notice.**

**I. M. COMINGS, M. D.,**

Having located himself permanently in Worcester, is prepared to treat the various forms of Chronic Disease. He has given his attention particularly to this class of complaints for some years, and been very successful in his treatment. He feels a confidence in soliciting the patronage of those who are unfortunately afflicted with Scrofula, or any Cutaneous Eruption, Rheumatism, Liver Complaint, or any Affection of the Kidneys, with Old Sores or Ulcers, &c.

He has cured cases of White Swelling that have defied the treatment of the best Old School physicians, and where amputation has been pronounced absolutely necessary.

Those from a distance, who may desire to consult him, can do so by letter; stating minutely the symptoms and history of the case. To such, he can send medicines, by Express or Mail, with the necessary directions. The patient can thus, at a trifling expense, have the opportunity to test his skill without a personal visit.

Two or three young men who wish to pursue the study of medicine can be entered as students with him.

*Worcester, May, 1849.*

## Bush's Extract of Smilax, OR SPANISH SARSAPARILLA.

*Whence are the occasional failures of Sarsaparilla?* The present popularity of this invaluable medicine makes the above a frequent question; and it may not be improper to state, in this card, the most common causes of disappointment in the use of the medicine. *First*, there are only a few species of Sarsaparilla that contain the *peculiar* virtues, and it is well known, that many varieties are found in market, and are used by manufacturers. *Secondly*, the virtues of Sarsaparilla are exceedingly volatile, and are soon impaired by age; while but very little discrimination is generally made in its selection. *Thirdly*, the virtues are extremely liable to be impaired and even entirely lost by the preparation of the syrup or extract.

The proprietors of this preparation are happy now to offer, to the afflicted public, an article in which all the causes of failure have been studiously avoided; and they cannot fail to maintain the credit of this incomparably valuable medicine. The recent discovery of the true Smilax Sarsaparilla in the south, by Prof. I. M. Comings, has put us in possession of the genuine root in a fresh state; and a new method of preparation, discovered by the proprietors, enables them to offer to the purchaser a superior article of extract of Sarsaparilla. The attention of Dispensers, Druggists, Physicians, and Patients, is particularly invited to the trial of an article which is warranted genuine and superior to any other article now offered to the public.

Prepared and sold, at Wholesale & Retail, by W. & H. Bush & Co. Principal office, No. 9, Park St., Worcester, Mass. Also, for sale, by B. O. & G. C. Wilson, No. 18 Central St. Boston; by Dr. C. Newton, corner of Front and Carlton Sts., Worcester, Mass.; and at all the principal Druggists' shops and stores, throughout the N. E. States.

## Dr. E. J. Mattocks' Buena Vista Pills.

### *Purely Vegetable.*

In offering this medicine to the public, we introduce the most mild, easy, and certain cathartic ever known; not the least griping or drastic effects attending their operation. We do not pretend to cure every form of disease with these pills, neither do we expect to raise the dead, or kill the living; but we do know that these pills will cure diseases of the liver, in any form; such as acute or chronic inflammation, jaundice in its worst stages, dyspepsia, constipated bowels, headache, heartburn, flatulency, and in fevers they are the only medicine needed. They will break the most malignant type, if taken in its first stage, according to the directions accompanying each box: they will also remove all female obstructions immediately; and in rheumatism and gout they are an infallible remedy if persevered in. In all affections of the kidneys and urinary organs, we can recommend them as a perfectly safe and efficacious remedy—gravel, chronic inflammation of the kidneys, or bladder stricture can be cured in a short time with these pills. As a general cathartic, they are the best ever offered to the public, because they strengthen the bowels and leave the system in a healthy state, operating without the least griping or pain.

Manufactured and sold at wholesale and retail, by the proprietor, Dr. E. J. MATTOCKS, at his Medical Dispensary, No. 24 Fifth Street, Troy, N. Y., and sold by agents throughout the United States.

## United States Thomsonian and Botanic Depot,

108 John Street, New York.

THIS Establishment, by far the largest and most extensive in this Country, and probably, in the world, possesses advantages in variety, and extensiveness of stock, peculiar to itself and difficult to be found elsewhere. The long established, and continually increasing trade from all parts of the continent, constantly centering to it, has given it a character well worth the name it bears; and the superior quality and purity of the articles furnished here, make that character envied and enviable.

The Proprietor has, for above twenty years, devoted his unremitting personal attention to this business, and customers ordering Herbs, Extracts or Medicines, may rely that he will never suffer the reputation of this Establishment to be compromised, by impure, damaged, spurious or adulterated articles being put up in it, or sent therefrom; and those who *know* him will feel a perfect assurance, that he needs no instruction in pulverizing his articles without injuring their medical qualities.

Every variety of Herbs, Roots, Barks, Extracts, Ointments, and Compounds, recommended by the various Botanical authors of our Country, constantly kept on hand, in large quantities, ready for shipment at the shortest notice.

CATALOGUES, containing a complete list of his vast stock of Botanic Simples and Compounds, Gums, Essential Oils, Distilled Waters, Syringes, Surgical Instruments, Glass Ware, Medical Works, and Miscellaneous Articles, will be furnished gratis, to all post-paid applications.

H. WINCHESTER.

108 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK.



## ATKINSON'S COMPOUND EXTRACT OF ROOTS, *For Making Root Beer.*

By following the directions, this article may be formed into a most healthful and pleasant beverage, that will more fully quench thirst, without producing a deleterious effect, than any other article in use. It acts as a PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and the other Fluids of the Human System; and instead of giving a momentary excitement, it imparts a gentle stimulant power to the whole body. As a substitute for spirituous or malt liquors, mineral waters, or even coffee and tea, its virtues are truly astonishing, and well worthy of the high praises that have been bestowed on it by all who have given it a fair trial. It is particularly useful in all Scorbutic Affections, Diseases of the Skin, &c.

Sold Wholesale and Retail at  
DR. A. ATKINSON'S BOTANIC LABORATORY AND MEDICINE STORE,  
No. 216 GREENWICH ST. BETWEEN BARCLAY & ROBINSON STS.,  
New York City.

## Laboratory of Thomsonian Botanic Medicine, *No. 20, South Calvert St.....BALTIMORE.*

THE first mill erected in the United States for the special purpose of preparing Thomsonian Botanic Medicines.

The subscriber has the largest and most complete assortment of Botanic Medicines in the United States, comprising all the various Compounds and other articles recommended by Dr. S. Thomson, besides an extensive variety of other approved Botanic Medicines. Having erected his Steam Mills expressly for the above Medicines, he is enabled to sell on the most favorable terms, and warrants his Medicines to be genuine and pure, prepared in the best manner, and clear of any deleterious or poisonous qualities, as he does not admit any thing of that nature about his establishment.

An experience of more than twenty years, in the practice, preparation, and compounding of Botanic Medicines, from the very best and purest materials in the market, has afforded him just grounds to flatter himself, that his Medicines, after a fair trial, will compete with any which may be offered to the friends of the Botanic cause, within the whole range of our country.

☞ It is of great importance, that Practitioners, and others, using Botanic Medicines, should be apprised, that all the articles manufactured at his establishment are *pulverized,—not ground,—*between an upper and nether mill-stone; as the latter process heats, and consequently injures, if it does not destroy the medical virtues of all articles submitted to such an operation.

On hand all the various Medical Works on the Botanic System, together with a general assortment of Glass Ware, Syringes, and all the articles connected with the business. Those wishing pure Medicines can be supplied on the most reasonable terms by

EPH'M. LARRABEE.

May, 1847.

JOB T. DICKENS, M. D.,  
**Thomsonian Botanic Physician & Surgeon.**  
BOTANIC MEDICINES WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.  
**Residence, No. 8, Pleasant Street,**  
*Newburyport, Mass.*

## Dr. Skinner's Clarified Oil of Cod-Fish Liver,

For the cure of Consumption, Scrofula, Rheumatism, &c. The medicinal virtues of this valuable Oil are truly one of the greatest discoveries of the age. Consumption and Scrofula will yield to its influence in nine cases out of every ten.

Sold by Dr. S. at his office, 60 1-2 Cornhill (up stairs) Boston, wholesale and retail. Large bottles 75 cents—small ones 37 1-2 cents. Descriptive pamphlets and cases of cures, in this city and in the country, to be had gratis at this office. The Oil is recommended and approved by most of the physicians of Boston.

*Druggists and the Profession supplied at the usual discount.*



NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., NOVEMBER 1, 1850.

NO. 11.

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Communications.

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PROF. GABBERT AS A REFORMER.

[Prof. G. will excuse us for giving to the public the following remarks, which were not intended for publication. They express views so sensible and so much in accordance with our own, that they will help our readers to understand the true position of the Worcester Medical Institution. We are not a little gratified in receiving the author as a co-laborer in the work of advancing that system of medical practice which only is founded in reason, science, and common sense. He writes as follows. *Ed. Jour.*]

I have practiced medicine now near thirty years;—twelve years of that time upon the old plan, which fully convinced me, that

neither the system of the Allopathists nor their medicines would do to rely on in the cure of disease, but that they were dangerous in the extreme to the health and constitutions of the human family. When convinced of this fact, I began (in 1833) what I then called a medical reform. I did so from an examination of Thomson, Howard, and all other authors who had then written upon the Botanic principles; and I chalked out a course for myself,—taking up with all I thought sound and practical common sense views, and discarding all that I thought calculated to do injury to the human race. In this course I have pursued the even tenor of my way, enjoying, at all times, a large practice, and having as good success as any one treating similar diseases. I am now for progressive reform in all branches of medicine. I care not by what name it is called. I am wedded to no sect. I think that all men engaged in teaching or practising the healing art, should endeavor to seek, find, practice, and teach truth in a scientific manner, without fear or favor from any source whatever.

From practical experience and a close investigation of the animal economy, I have become satisfied, that nothing should be used as a remedial agent, which has a deleterious effect upon the constitution of the patient after his recovery. I presume, from the tenor of your letter in relation to medical reform, you and myself occupy about the same ground.

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### FEVER.

[ We hope, ere long, to be able to give our views on the subject of fever more at length than we can in this connexion. We do not wonder, that an intelligent practitioner finds it impossible to comprehend such a sentiment as is referred to in the following, which is the closing paragraph of a private letter. For ourselves, we never could understand, how a person can be sick of a typhus or other fever, if that fever is a recuperative effort of nature. How one can be diseased by nature's exertions to throw off disease is to us a mystery. We must, therefore, refer Dr. T. to our friend, Dr. Curtis of Cincinnati, who understands the whole subject thorough-

ly, and whose word is by many, at the South and West especially, taken as truth which is not to be questioned. If, however, a satisfactory answer should not be obtained from this source, it may aid the inquirer somewhat to be referred to the profound reasoning of Dr. Beach, in his *Family Physician*, page 206. His definitions of health and disease are as follows:

“*Health*.—When all the functions of the system are duly performed, a person may be said to be in health.

“*Disease*.—Any alteration from this state, or when any part ceases to perform its office or function, disease is the consequence. It is a salutary effort of nature to repair an injury to the system or re-establish health.

“What is termed disease appears, in reality, to be nothing more than an inherent principle in the system to restore healthy action, or to resist offending causes. Pain or disease is not the result of any new or independent action in the system, but arises from an excess of excitement in the healthy function of the body; or, in other words, is, like fever, a healthy or conservative power of nature to expel noxious agents, or restore health.”

To say nothing of the grammatical accuracy and rhetorical elegance of some portions of this quotation, the profundity of the thought is too great for our *superficial* mind. We will try, however, in a short time, to give our readers some of our *shallow* views on the subject for the benefit of such as, like ourselves, are unable to comprehend any thing of greater depth. ED. JOUR.]

I greatly desire, to have your views on the subject of fever,—its direct and indirect causes,—its essential nature. Please explain, how it can be a *salutary effort* of the system to throw off disease, and, at the same time, the *effect* of disease;—as this is the doctrine, if not of all reformers, yet certainly of some, who are learned and intelligent. If fever be a salutary exertion of the system to remove disease, please explain clearly to me, how it comes, that a patient never appears to begin recovering, till the fever begins to diminish. As I am in the dark here, please to give me light. A compliance with the above, will lay me under special obligations.

Very respectfully yours,

J. E. TODD.



## BOTANIC PRACTICE.

[The following is extracted from a private letter, sent us by a physician in the state of Michigan, and containing the needful for the current volume of the Journal. It shows the interest felt, in the Physo-medical practice and in the appropriate means of advancing it, even by those residing in remote sections of the country. We are pleased that our humble periodical is finding its way quite extensively into the most distant States and Territories of the Union. We shall ever labor hard to cause it to do abundant good; wherever it is circulated. Ed. Jour.]

The Botanic system of practice is gaining ground in this far West, and I believe is destined, ere long, if faithfully pursued, to triumph over every other system now in use. I have practiced, in this way, for more than 15 years, and have seen its beneficial results upon hundreds of individuals. I wish you prosperity and success, in advocating the cause of medical reform.

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## S e l e c t i o n s .

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## CASE OF MALIGNANT TUMOR,

OF EIGHT OR TEN YEARS' STANDING, CURED AFTER TWO YEARS BY A STRICT DIET OF BREAD AND MILK; WITH REMARKS.

[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, by HENRY I. BOWDITCH, M. D., one of the Physicians of the Massachusetts General Hospital.]

In accordance with your request, I copy for your Journal my notes of the very interesting case of Dr. Twitchell. I obtained them from him during my late visit to the Granite State, and he kindly allows me to publish them. Every medical man, I presume, is somewhat acquainted with Dr. T. He is one of the most noted of our New England surgeons. His circuit has a diameter of fifty miles—and he has always, even while suffering from the local dis-

case I shall endeavor to detail, been able to drive a hundred miles, if necessary, in the twenty-four hours, and in his own carriage, over the hills of his native State. The medical history of his *life* is extremely interesting. I shall therefore give that, very briefly, before entering upon the consideration of the local disease.

1st. Carcinoma has appeared in his family. His grandmother died of cancer of the mamma; his sister of a scirrhus pylorus.

These are all the data of his hereditary tendencies that bear upon our main topic.

2d. In very early life, Dr. T. was in delicate health. As a youth, he was stronger and was among the foremost in all athletic sports. While at College, he became dyspeptic, had icterus, with enlarged liver, &c.; subsequently, he passed gall-stones. Whilst pursuing the studies of his profession, he began to suffer from asthma, and for about twenty years was very much subject to violent attacks of it, causing orthopnœa, &c. During all this period he ate animal food very freely, three times daily, and digested it easily, whereas vegetable food caused dyspeptic difficulties. Being induced, owing to a severe acne of the face, to abandon this course, he gave up, for nine years, the use of meat. From the period at which he first abandoned meat, he has never had an attack of asthma, and Dr. T. considers these two facts related to each other as cause and effect. Moreover, vegetable food was soon easily borne. After the nine years of vegetable regimen, he began gradually to resume the use of the milder kinds of animal food, such as poultry and somewhat of the more solid meats, until two years since, when he commenced the very rigid diet, which will be described when treating of the local disease, which is the more immediate object of this paper. Finally, I will state, as indicative, perhaps, of the tendencies of the cutaneous system to morbid action, that about four years ago he had a wart-like tumor on the scalp, which disappeared under the use of creosote, externally applied. I should have stated above, that the acne disappeared after the use, for some months, of a vegetable diet.

3d. The local disease, the course and result of which I present as the chief object of interest, commenced eight or ten years since, as a small but hard tumor at the internal angle of the right eye. When first noticed it was about as large as a mustard seed and not painful. He occasionally touched it, and had some suspicion that it might eventually prove to be of a malignant character. It was imbedded in the substance of the cutis, and from the first seemed very slowly to augment in size. At times he *thought* he felt some lancinating pains in it, which radiated to the brow. It did not, however, interfere with the functions of the lachrymal ducts, &c.



About 1843 the tumor had become nearly as large as a pea, and a tendency to the formation of a scab was observed. He was then induced to try some local applications, and frequently, until 1845, used Jennings's ointment.\* This would remove the scab, and displayed three small lobes from which exuded a little purulent fluid. At first the morbid growth seemed lessened by this and other milder applications, but no permanent effect was produced. At times the discharge ceased, but only to return again, and the tumor gradually lost its trilobed aspect. It was at this period quite conspicuous to every bystander.

August, 1845, Dr. Geo. Hayward, of this city, removed the major part of it with the scalpel. For a short time, the wound seemed doing well; but finally, it did not heal, and two months afterwards it was operated on again, and nitrate of silver was applied. Meanwhile, however, there had been experienced much local pain. It was deeper seated, less transitory, and radiated towards the brow and cheek. Sometimes it was severe enough to awaken him at night, and was worse usually after long journies.

The applications during 1846-7 were chiefly of a very similar character—cold cream, preparations of zinc, &c., and once the iodide of lead. All active applications caused inflammation of the conjunctiva. The tumor continued to augment slightly, and, in the spring of 1847, it presented to my eye a decidedly malignant appearance. It was an ulcer about the size of the top of the finger, with ragged, hard, elevated edges, and the irritation from the discharge caused the patient frequently to apply his handkerchief to the part. At night it caused a glueing of the lids and a discharge on the side of the nose. I certainly believed, and Dr. T. tells me that he thought, at the time, that the disease would gradually augment and involve the eye—and he had determined, if necessary, to have this organ extirpated. His general health, as it has been already stated, continued good; but, when not actively employed, the mind was somewhat depressed at the prospect before him. At the meeting of the American Medical Association in Philadelphia, May, 1847, he consulted several of the eminent men whom he met; and, I believe, I may say, that all regarded it as a disease of a most serious nature, although some thought it might be cured by local applications, and others advised a further operation.

Dr. T. returned home discouraged, and he decided to give up all use of medicines internally or of external applications, but to try a course of the most rigid diet. Starting from a theory that malignant diseases arise from the fact that we take too much carbon

\*Mackenzie on the Eye.



in our systems, he determined to live from that time upon a bread and milk diet ; and, if at the end of some months he did not find any diminution in the disease, he still determined to use nothing but bread and water. Since his return from Philadelphia he has strictly adhered to the bread and milk. He has used three times daily from four to six ounces of cream or the richest milk, and the same quantity of either white or brown bread. He continues that diet still.

The results, upon the *local disease*, have been as follows :—The pains in the part were lessened almost immediately. The purulent discharge very soon began to diminish, and in two or three months it was evident that the disease was not augmenting. During the following winter the improvement was more decided. In the spring of 1848, being obliged to ride over dusty roads to great distances, the eye was more irritated. Nevertheless, he felt, and his friends assured him, that the diseased part was really lessening and tending towards a cure. Since that period a steady improvement has taken place. The ulcerated mass, which was so perceptible to me two years since, has wholly gone, and now (August, 1849) I can discover no difference between the angles of the two eyes, save that in the right one there is a minute white spot, about a line in diameter, looking like a cicatrix. It is not harder than the adjacent parts, and had I not known of the existence of previous disease, I should not have noticed even this. There is no discharge, no pains, and a perfect cure seems to have been accomplished of a disease that had been existing for about ten years, in a patient aged 68 years.

The effects of this rigid diet upon the constitution, as a whole, are interesting.

In his mental estate, Dr. T. thinks he has been much less irritable than when he was *omnivorous*.

He had, at one time, an attack of vertigo (to which, however, he has been always liable) and, finding that he was *growing corpulent* under the diet, he, for a time, took less of it.

He has always been as strong, as when indulging in a more generous diet.

He has been able to breathe better, having had less tendency to dyspnœa.

His digestion has been good, but with a slight tendency to costiveness.

His organs of circulation have been unaffected.

Renal excretion, for years a little disturbed, as is not unfrequently the case in persons of his age.

Finally, Dr. T. presents, to my mind, the picture of a hale, robust man, in perfect health, so far as one can perceive, and but slightly touched by the influence of his many years of honorable and successful labor.

*Reflections upon Dr. T.'s Case.*—The most important topic involved in the foregoing record, is the restoration to health from what seemed to be malignant disease, and that this result followed the strict diet of bread and milk for two years.

2d. The cessation of asthmatic difficulties, after they had troubled the patient for twenty years, and that this cure likewise followed the change of diet—from an almost strictly animal diet to one quite the reverse, viz., strictly vegetable.

3d. Some readers may ask, if these two cures are not merely examples of the "*post-hoc*," and they may deny, that there is any complete evidence of the "*propter-hoc*." I consent to the doubt, for it has entered my own mind. Nevertheless, if they are mere coincidences, they are pregnant with important suggestions. I confess that, in my own practice, I have never met with any cases so significant of the power that diet, simply and heroically used, has to *re-organize* a man.

4th. Dr. T.'s case becomes interesting as an evidence of the power of a man to subject his body to strict rule. In this epicurean age, it is quite refreshing to find one who "eats to live, and does not live to eat." A worthy professional brother, of this city, said, when the case was related to him, "It might certainly be a question whether life was desirable under such a regimen!" I honor a hero wherever I find him, and the heroism of Dr. T., in undertaking and pursuing this course so long, merely in consequence of a theory,\* excites in me the greatest delight. In this sceptical unbelieving era, I like to see any one having *faith*. Whether the theory was correct or not, it matters little—the fixed will of its follower arouses my enthusiasm; and this brings me to another topic of interest.

5th. The theory which governed Dr. T.—was it correct? I confess that I am unable to solve the question; I merely suggest it. Some, whom I consider as our ablest animal chemists, think that it was by the process of starvation, as described by Liebig,† that the cure was wrought. It seems to me, that this cannot be the true explanation—for Dr. T. has always been stout, and it will be remembered, that at one time he actually gained flesh under the diet.

*Charleston Medical Journal.*

\* That Dr. T. was not influenced wholly by theory, the additional case, which I have presented below, will prove.—H. I. B.

† Animal Chemistry, Cambridge Edition, page 25. 1842.



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*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

DEAR SIR,—When I sent the account of Dr. Twitchell's disease and cure to the Editor of the Charleston (S. C.) Medical Journal, I did not allude to a case, the records of which Dr. Thayer has recently procured for me from our esteemed professional friend Dr. T. It will be seen, that it is similar in some respects to his own. In fact, I have reason to believe, it influenced his course of treatment of his own case, as much perhaps as the theory to which I alluded in my original paper. Yours, truly, H. I. B.

"I have obtained from Dr. Twitchell," says Dr. Thayer, "all the particulars of the case of dietetic treatment of osteo-sarcoma, which he could give me; and, as his memory is so accurate, I suppose he has not forgotten anything of importance connected with it. You know the doctor never takes notes.

"A man about 40 years of age consulted Dr. T. in relation to a tumor on his scapula, as large as a pint bowl. It was evidently osteo-sarcoma, had its usual crackling feel, and resembled very closely one in the same position which Dr. Twitchell had seen a short time previously, and for which he had removed the whole upper extremity, even scapula and clavicle. In that case, the wound healed, but the man died a year or two afterwards, with carcinoma of some internal organ. When the second case applied for advice, Dr. T. declined an operation, and the man returned home to Vermont. Soon afterwards, he heard of somebody in New York who could cure him, and applying to this person for advice, received the following.

"He was to take from the brook which ran through his native farm a plant which grew there (the adviser did not know what it would be), and use a weak infusion of it for his only drink every day until the tumor had disappeared. *His diet, besides this, was to consist of bread alone.* This advice was strictly followed—the plant he used was 'water dock.' Dr. Twitchell happened to see the man two years afterwards, when he was still following this course. He found the tumor had nearly disappeared, there being apparently only a trifling thickening of the skin."

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From the Sunday Times.

## WHAT KILLED THE PRESIDENT.

On reading the accounts of the illness and death of the President, I find that, on the morning of Thursday, the 4th of July, he was in excellent health. He dined at a late hour, having an excel-



lent appetite, on cabbage, cucumbers, berries, cherries, and iced milk. What a mess! Of course, he was taken with cramps about an hour afterwards. Nobody it seems had gumption enough to remember that "an empty house is better than a bad tenant," and to remove the trash from his stomach by an emetic. On Saturday doctors were called in; and, not knowing what any old woman in the country could have taught them, the necessity of turning out Messrs. Cabbage, Cucumbers, Cherries, Milk, & Co., deliberately set to work and locked them in with calomel and opium! Was there ever any thing more stupid? On the 9th, when the patient was too feeble to stand it, Nature set up the emetic operation herself; but it was too late, and the General sank under it. Ought not these doctors to be held to account?

ANTI-MURDERER.

From the London Medical Gazette.

## CASE OF UNUNITED FRACTURE OF THE TIBIA, OF TWENTY-FOUR YEARS' STANDING, SUCCESSFULLY TREATED.

BY R. W. TAMPLIN, ESQ., SURGEON TO THE ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL, LONDON.

Miss——, æt. 25, at the age of 14 months, slipped between the bars of a garden-seat. The only circumstance which attracted attention was a broad discoloration at the lower third of the leg, and a slight curvature of the bone. After a few weeks the child was noticed to walk less strongly, when a surgeon was called in, who consoled the parents with the assertion "that there was no necessity for uneasiness, as many children had a difference in the straightness of their legs at that age;" and upon the mother's remarking, that such had not been the case until the bruise was noticed, replied, "that all would be well in a few months." Friction and bathing were resorted to for some time, and the child is stated to have walked without limping until she was 3 years old. Her manner of walking then became irregular, and the bone was noticed to project, which was supposed to arise from her increased weight. Another surgeon was now consulted, who discovered the fracture, and pronounced the bone to have been "falsely united." An endeavor was made to rupture the false union, but without success. Frictions and ointments were again used, with a view of obtaining absorption of the extraneous matter, and the part supported by

plaster. The case appeared to be progressing satisfactorily, when the child met with another accident, and the smaller bone of the leg is stated to have been broken. Splints were then applied. From 9 years of age the leg was supported by an instrument, and crutches were occasionally used. The spine is stated to have been also curved at this time. Her general health became impaired, and constant suffering was occasioned by any attempt at walking.

The patient was now placed under a physician, since deceased, who especially treated spinal cases. The uniting medium is stated to have been broken by that gentleman, with the view of reducing the fracture, and forcible extension had recourse to, which brought the leg down for the time being, but it always returned to the malposition. This treatment was continued for two years, and then the case pronounced "incurable." The patient was at this period 11 years old. The leg was placed in splints, which were continued until she was 15 ; but she was unable to put the foot to the ground. Many surgeons of eminence were consulted, and amputation was the general advice. An instrument was then obtained to hold the knee and ankle stiff, with a high-heeled boot, and the leg supported by a case of sole leather from the knee to the ankle : with this she managed to get about, but not without great pain ; the weakness increasing in spite of the artificial support.

On the 17th of July, 1849, I first saw the patient, and, on examination, found that the leg had been fractured at the lower third obliquely upwards, the upper portion of the tibia projecting pointedly forwards, and riding over the lower third. The leg was two inches and a half shorter than the other. It was freely moveable. The knee, from the constant irregular strain upon the ligaments, yielded outwardly, and the patient could not put the leg to the ground, even with the assistance of the support, without suffering severe pain both at the point of fracture and in the knee-joint. Her general health had suffered more or less, and her existence is stated to have been a burden to her.

From the history of the case—the fact that it had existed from childhood, that all attempts had failed, that amputation was the general advice—I gave a doubtful opinion, but determined to make an attempt to obtain a union without operation. Three indications occurred to me : the first, to bring the bones in apposition ; the second, to obtain absorption of the false uniting medium ; the third, to endeavor to obtain union, either by the deposition of bony matter, which I thought might possibly be thrown out from the irritation which must necessarily be set up, or by a contraction of the portion of the false union which immediately surrounded the fracture. With these views I ordered an instrument to be so made that the



thigh could be firmly grasped above the condyles of the femur, the foot below having a screw by means of which the distance between the knee and foot could be gradually increased. This instrument was applied on the 31st July, 1849, and the leg kept horizontal, in the extended position. Gradual extension was now commenced, and continued for four days. So much pain was occasioned in the gastrocnemius, that I found it necessary to divide the tendo-Achillis, which was done in the usual manner by puncture from within outwards. The instrument was omitted for eight days, and then re-applied, and extension again used. From this time the leg became gradually and easily elongated; and during the extension a steady-continued pressure was kept up on the tibia above the point of fracture, and counter pressure at the back of the leg, just above the ankle-joint. This treatment was persevered in unremittingly until the 9th of January, 1850, without interruption to the health—there was, however, at times, severe pain, which was allayed by opiates—when, upon examination, the leg was found to be of equal length with its fellow, and the bone retained its position unassisted. I then applied the common splints, and ordered an instrument, with a boot attached, to support the weakened knee-joint, which had resumed its proper relative position during the treatment, and also having a pad to support the tibia, in case the union was imperfect.

On the 26th of February the patient could raise the leg in the horizontal position without the slightest pain, and without a sign of motion at the point of fracture. I then applied the new support, which was worn, without any attempt to put the foot to the ground, until the 8th of March. She was able to stand on the 3d of April, and then, at the request of Mr. Travers, and afterwards in the presence of Mr. Lawrence, both of whom kindly visited the patient, she walked, without pain, and without a sign of motion at the point of fracture. Since that time she has continued to use the leg freely, with slight intermissions from indisposition;—can walk up and down stairs. Her general health has improved, and I have every reason to believe that a perfect cure has been effected.

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From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

### NEW REMEDY FOR TAPE-WORM.

The *Kousso*, otherwise called “*Brayera Anthelmintica*,” from Dr. Brayer, who first made its properties known, is a tree which is found in Abyssinia, said to grow to the size of an oak, and to bear



bunches of small flowers varying from a pale green to a rose color. The flowers, which appear to be the medicinal part of the plant have been used by the Abyssinians for a long period for the purpose of destroying the tape-worm, to which they are very much subject. It is said that this new medicine is exported in a powdered state, having a resemblance to jalap in color, and scammony in its aroma. It is slightly bitter, and a little nauseous in its taste. Dr. Budd, in a clinical lecture at King's College Hospital, London, which is reported in the *Lancet* for June, makes mention of the new remedy. He fully concurs with the European and native doctors of Abyssinia, in their opinion of its merits as an anthelminthic. There is one great obstacle, however, in the way of its general use by the profession, and that is the enormous price at which it is held. M. Baggio, Pharmacien, No. 13 Rue Neuve des Petit Champs, Paris, is the only one who has it for sale, *and he charges for a single dose forty francs, about \$4.75.* A dose, 4 1-2 drs., is put up in a little phial, that is well stopped. It is hoped that some of our enterprising druggists will make an effort to obtain some of this new remedy, that we may have an opportunity also to test its reputed valuable properties.

## PHYSO-MEDICAL COLLEGES.

[As our periodical is published in a form suitable to be bound and is intended to be permanently preserved, we have thought, that it might be interesting to a portion of our readers,—to the profession especially,—to see inserted the circulars of the principal Botanic and Eclectic Colleges in the country. We give the following five ; which, as far as we know, are all that are, at present, in successful operation. Several others, in different States, have charters, but we are not aware, that they have organized Faculties or are in a living condition. *Editor.*]

### ECLECTIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE OF CINCINNATI.

*Chartered in 1845—Session of 1849—50—Matriculants, 224—  
Graduates, 65.*

The sixth winter Session of this college will commence on the first Monday of November, 1850, and continue four months. The chairs of the Faculty will be arranged as follows :

HORATIO P. GATCHELL, M. D.—Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.  
 JOSEPH R. BUCHANAN, M. D.—Medical Chemistry and Cerebral Physiology.  
 LORENZO E. JONES, M. D.—Materia Medica and Pharmacy.  
 BENJAMIN L. HILL, M. D.—Surgery and Obstetrics.  
 I. GIBSON JONES, M. D.—Theory and Practice of Medicine.  
 WOOSTER BEACH, M. D.—Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine.  
 WM. OWENS, M. D.—Demonstrator of Anatomy and Surgical Prosector.

A gratuitous preliminary Course of Lectures will commence on the first Monday in October: at the same time the Demonstrator's rooms will be opened with every facility for the study of Anatomy. Tickets to a full Course of Lectures \$60, in advance (or a well endorsed 12 months note for \$70 and interest); to two or more full Courses of Lectures \$100, in advance (or a well endorsed note for \$125). Matriculation ticket, \$5; Graduation, \$15; Demonstrator's ticket, \$5 (anatomical material abundant); Hospital ticket, \$5; which gives access to the Clinical Lectures of the extensive Commercial Hospital. Board from \$2 to \$2.50 per week. Students occasionally board themselves in clubs for one half of this amount.

The leading principles of the College are, that all medical treatment should be of a safe and restorative, instead of a dangerous or debilitant character—that knowledge should be sought freely from all sources, and that no medical creed should be enforced by proscriptive associations. The Eclectic system of practice embraces a great number of medicines and remedial measures, not generally known or used, and its success is believed to be unequalled. The average mortality of cholera, under Eclectic practice, has been less than five per cent,—the average mortality from all diseases less than two per cent.

Students will call, upon their arrival in the city, at the office of Prof. B. L. Hill, Secretary of the Faculty, N. W. corner of Ninth and Elm. For further information address, post-paid,

JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D., DEAN.

## CENTRAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The next annual Course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on the first Monday in November, 1850, and continue sixteen weeks. In issuing this their second annual Announcement, the Board of Trustees have the gratification of adverting to the unparalleled success of the School during the last Terms, as affording undoubted evidence of its appreciation by the public, its permanent establishment, and future prosperity. The Faculty have received the fullest assurances from that portion of the profession among whom their labors have been cast, and who have had an



opportunity of judging, that their course is approved and will be supported.

The Board of Trustees have resolved on permanently locating the School in the City of Rochester, which, from its central position, convenience of access, large population, wealth, and morality, must be acknowledged as the most desirable location in the State.

In consequence of the number of Ladies who attended the last Terms, and at the request of a number of others who propose attending the next Session, the Board of Trustees have concluded to establish a Female Department, and have placed it under the charge of Mrs. L. N. FOWLER, M. D.; who, from her spirit of investigation, and scientific and medical acquirements, has obtained a widespread and merited popularity.

#### FACULTY.

- J. R. BUSH, M. D. Prof. of General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy.  
 LEVI REUBEN, M. D. Prof. of Physiology, Pathology, and Forensic Medicine.  
 L. C. DOLLEY, M. D. Prof. of Principles and Practice of Surgery.  
 O. DAVIS, M. D. Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.  
 S. M. DAVIS, M. D. Prof. of Principles and Practice of Physic.  
 W. W. HADLEY, M. D. Prof. of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacy.  
 A. K. EATON, M. D. Prof. of Chemistry.  
 W. BEACH, M. D. Emeritus Prof. of the Principles and Practice of Medicine.  
 J. H. TILDEN, M. D. Demonstrator of Anatomy.

#### FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

- Mrs. L. N. FOWLER, M. D. Principal.  
 Mrs. R. B. GLEASON, Associate.

FEES.—Aggregate cost of Professors' Tickets, \$55; Demonstration, \$5; Matriculation Fee, \$5. Graduation Fee, \$15.

Good board can be obtained at \$2, and \$2,25 per week.

A student from each senatorial district throughout the State, will be admitted to the Lectures, by the payment of Matriculation Fee. Those admitted to this privilege must be promising and *indigent* ladies or gentlemen, who must be so recommended by a Justice of the Peace, or a Judge of the County in which they reside. They will please forward their applications as soon as the first of October next. Graduates in Medicine, Clergymen, and Theological Students will be admitted to the Lectures on the payment of the Matriculation Fee.

Students are advised to furnish themselves with text books.—Old School works, as well as Reform Publications. All will be consulted eclectically.

Students arriving in the City will call on Dr. Hadley, at his office in Minerva Block, Main st., opposite Blossom's Hotel.

For further information address W. W. HADLEY, M. D.

Dean of the Faculty,  
 Rochester, N. Y.



## SOUTHERN BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE, MACON, GA.

The Twelfth Annual Course of Lectures in this Institution will begin on the first Monday in November next, and close on the last Friday in February thereafter.

The Faculty is composed of the following gentlemen.

- L. BANKSTON, M. D. Prof. of Physiology, Pathology, and Materia Medica.  
 M. S. THOMPSON, M. D. Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.  
 M. S. BELLENGER, M. D. Prof. of Anatomy and Surgery.  
 J. T. COXE, M. D. Prof. of Principles and Practice of Medicine, and Therapeutics.  
 Prof. J. N. LOOMIS has been engaged as a Lecturer on Chemistry and Medical Botany.

The tickets for the Course will be \$100, including Matriculating and Anatomical fees, payable in cash, good property, or negotiable paper. The graduating fee is \$25.

Letters of inquiry, and those on College business must be post-paid and addressed to

M. S. THOMPSON, M. D.

*Dean of the Faculty.*

*Macon, January 1, 1850.*

## BOTANICO-MEDICAL COLLEGE OF MEMPHIS.

The fifth Course of Medical Lectures in this Institution will commence on the first Monday in November next, and end on the last Friday in February succeeding.

## FACULTY.

|                                                                             |           |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| G. W. MORROW, M. D. Prof. of Anatomy,                                       | - - - - - | \$12 00 |
| JAMES WEAVER, M. D. Prof. of Surgery,                                       | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| S. R. JONES, M. D. Prof. of Physiology and Pathology,                       | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| M. GABBERT, M. D. Prof. of Theory and Practice of Medicine,                 | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| K. P. WATSON, M. D. Prof. of Materia Medica and Therapeutics,               | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| J. J. RIDDLE, M. D. Prof. of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| WM. HYER, A. M. Prof. of Chemistry,                                         | - - - - - | 15 00   |
| G. W. MORROW, M. D. Demonstrator of Anatomy,                                | - - - - - | 8 00    |
| MATRICULATION TICKET,                                                       | - - - - - | 5 00    |

Total, - - - - - \$100 00

Graduation fee, Twenty Dollars.

A Course of Lectures on Medical Jurisprudence will be delivered gratis during the Session.

In making the Announcement for the approaching Session of the Botanico-Medical College, it is due the friends of reform and the public generally, to lay before them its present condition.

The Institution has, up to the present, been crowned with unparalleled success, compared with similar Institutions in this country. True, it has had to contend with those difficulties peculiar to, and which are constant attendants upon, the establishment of new Institutions, and especially such as embrace new doctrines.

In addition to the facilities for instruction heretofore afforded, much is being done, by the enterprising Trustees and by individuals, to render the Institution, if possible, still more worthy of public confidence.

The College buildings formerly occupied, having been found too inconvenient for the advanced condition of the Institution, arrangements have been made for the building of a more spacious edifice, which in addition to the necessary lecture rooms, will embrace a library, a museum, and an herbarium. The arrangements now in contemplation are deemed as complete as in the oldest Institutions in the country, and no pains will be spared, either by the Trustees or Faculty, to render the situation of students not only advantageous, but pleasant.

In consequence of the numerous applications which have been made to extend indulgence to young men of enterprise and merit, at a late meeting of the Faculty, it was unanimously agreed, that a note for ninety-five dollars; with two good endorsers, payable twelve months after date, should be received in lieu of cash, for the tickets of the several Professors for one Course of Lectures, when students are not prepared to advance the cash.

Those wishing further information in reference to the institution, will please address the Dean, post paid.

K. P. WATSON, M. D.

Memphis, April, 1850.

*Dean of the Faculty.*

## PHYSO-MEDICAL COLLEGE.

### FACULTY.

|                                                                    |           |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| A. CURTIS, M. D. Prof. of Institutes or Principles of Medicine,    | -         | \$12 00 |
| J. COURTNEY, M. D. Prof. of Practical Medicine and Obstetrics,     | -         | 12 00   |
| E. H. STOCKWELL, M. D. Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology,            | -         | 12 00   |
| E. M. PARRITT, M. D. Prof. of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence, |           | 12 00   |
| J. BROWN, M. D. Prof. of Botany, Materia Medica, Pharmacy,         |           |         |
| and Therapeutics,                                                  | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| J. A. POWERS, M. D. Prof. of Surgery,                              | - - - - - | 12 00   |
| E. H. STOCKWELL, M. D. Demonstrator of Anatomy,                    | - - - - - | 5 00    |
| J. BROWN, Dean.                                                    |           |         |

### WINTER SESSION OF 1850

Will commence on the first Monday of November, and continue seventeen weeks (the last week devoted to the candidates for grad-



uation). The expense of Tickets, \$72 00 ; Matriculation, \$3 00 ; Graduation, \$20 00. Board from \$2 00 to \$3 00 per week.

One hundred dollars, in advance, will secure a certificate that will entitle the purchaser (or his assignee) to as many Courses of Lectures as he may require for graduation ; or it will entitle the subscriber to a share in the College ground and buildings.

## WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

### COURSE OF STUDY, &c.

The course of study required by this Institution is intended to occupy three full years ; and candidates for the regular degree of M. D. must have attended two full Courses of Medical Lectures in some established Medical College, one of which must have been in this Institution. They must present satisfactory testimonials of good moral character ; must have a competent literary education ; and must well sustain an examination in the various branches of medical study, as contained in our Course of Lectures, and in the text-books which we recommend, or equivalents.

The following are the principal authors recommended :—

*On Anatomy*—Morton, Wilson, Quain, Wistar, Paxton, and Harrison.

*On Surgery*—Pancoast, Druitt, Liston, Cooper, Velpeau, and Castle.

*On Physiology*—Carpenter, Oliver, Muller, and Dunglison.

*On Pathology*—Gross, Chomel, Gallup, and Watson.

*On Materia Medica*—Kost, Pereira, and Wood and Bache.

*On Auscultation and Percussion*—Laennec, Williams, Gerhard, Bowditch, and Watson.

*On Theory and Practice*—Watson, Mackintosh, Elliotson and Stewartson, Kost, Mattson, Howard, Worthy, Comfort, Smith, Curtis, and Thomson.

*On the Institutes of Medicine*—Gallup and Curtis.

*On Obstetrics and Diseases peculiar to Women and Children*—Churchill, Eberle, Chailly, Maygrier, Velpeau, Beach, and Curtis.

*On Medical Jurisprudence*—Beck and Williams.

*On Chemistry*—Gray, Fownes, and Turner.

*On Botany*—Eaton, Bigelow, Gray, and Wood.

The following are the members of the Faculty :—

C. NEWTON, M. D. Prof. of General and Special Pathology.

M. GABBERT, M. D. Prof. of Theory and Practice.

E. M. PARRITT, M. D. Prof. of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence.

WALTER BURNHAM, M. D. Prof. of Surgery and Obstetrics.

E. H. STOCKWELL, M. D. Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology.

JOSEPH BROWN, M. D. Prof. of Materia Medica and Botany.



The next Course of Lectures will commence on the first Thursday in March, 1851, and continue sixteen weeks. The fee for a full Course is \$60, in advance, with a matriculation fee of \$3. Of those who have attended two full Courses at other Medical Colleges, \$10 only are required. Graduates will be charged, in addition, \$18 for a Diploma. Good board can be had for \$2, 25 per week.

The text books recommended are consulted *eclectically* ; *authoritatively*, indeed, so far as they are descriptive of actual conditions, as in Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and the like ; but otherwise *with careful discrimination*,—the fundamental peculiarity of what is taught in this Institution being, that there is no necessity for employing poisons of any kind, as medicinal agents ; and that the object, in exhibiting any remedy, should be to sustain and not to depress the vital powers.

Quite extensive accessions have, of late, been made to the Anatomical and Chemical Apparatus, Library, &c. The Faculty of the Institution now constitute a full and eminently able Board of Instruction ; and the facilities to be enjoyed by students are, in every way, ample. Dissections, surgical operations, illustrations, and experiments, are conducted in the most advantageous and instructive manner.

As, however, it is the aim of the Trustees of this Institution to render it pre-eminent for advantages afforded, any donations in money, or preparations adapted to facilitate illustrative teaching, in any of the departments, are respectfully and earnestly solicited.

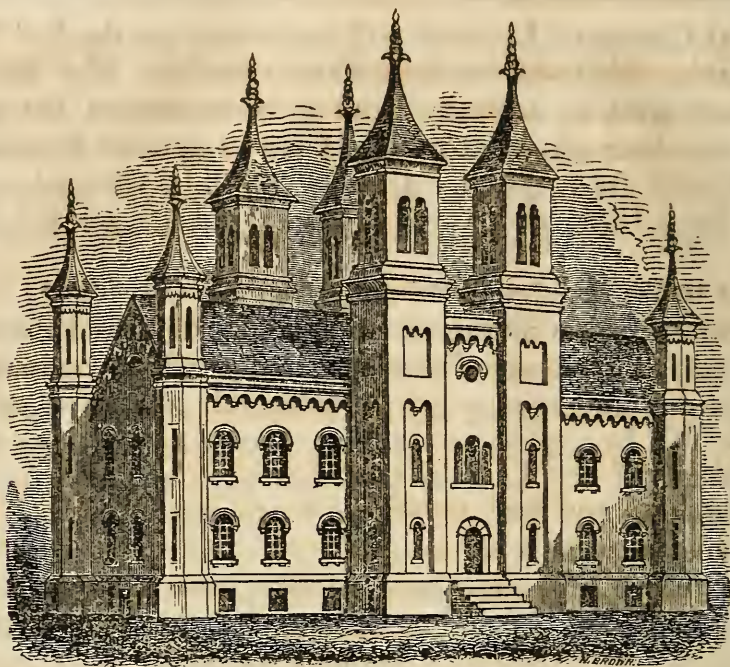
C. NEWTON, *President*.

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From the Water Cure Reporter.

### PAINE'S GAS.

Mahiot, Electro-Metalurgist to the U. S. Coast Survey, communicates to the Scientific American the result of some recent experiments with hydrogen gas, suggested by Paine's alleged discovery. He found that hydrogen passed through turpentine acquired high illuminating properties, while the turpentine was not perceptibly diminished in quantity. So far as it goes, this is confirmatory of Mr. Paine's claims. It now remains for him to show, that he can decompose water as easily and cheaply as he proposed, and his fame and fortune become a fixed fact.



[Worcester Medical Institution.]

## Editorial.



### WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

For the gratification of our friends, who often inquire anxiously after our external prosperity, we will say, that the walls of our College building are well nigh complete; and the work, being in the hands of efficient men, will go steadily and unremittingly forward. The halls will be in readiness for the reception of the Class in March next; and our prospects, in regard to the number of the Class are increasingly bright. We hear from all quarters of students who are expecting to be with us, at the opening of the Term.

Prof. Gabbert's acceptance of the chair of Theory and Practice, not only makes our Board of instruction full, but gives us a Faculty possessing an eminent amount of professional talent. It is no flattery to this Faculty to say, that they will be able to give their pupils instruction, in some respects of a more elevated and scientific character, than can be gained at any other College in the



country. From this time, our apparatus and means of illustration will be found superior; so that students will no longer have it to say, as an apology for going elsewhere to be educated, that our Institution yet bears, in a great measure, the marks of infancy.

Suddenly though it may seem, yet we have actually risen to a degree of maturity not yet experienced by any of the other Physio-medical Colleges of the country. And we are proud to assert, that, as we have not yet graduated a medical dunce or an ignoramus, so we mean to keep clear of the charge of having done it. No one will go away from this Institution, bearing its honors, who is not thoroughly trained and well qualified to practice the healing art. This, it is true, may for a season somewhat retard our growth in numbers; but we are satisfied, that it will, in due time, turn to our account. At any rate, be the consequences what they may, we are determined that the standard of medical education, set up by the Worcester Medical Institution, shall be of the highest order.

### THE PROFESSORSHIP OF THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Our readers will recollect, that, in announcing, in the September No. of the Journal, Dr. Curtis' declinature of the chair of Theory and Practice in the Worcester Medical Institution, we also remarked, that we had "in prospect the securing of a man who stands eminent in the profession and bids fair to sustain the office with the highest honor to himself and to the Institution." We now take great pleasure in saying, that the vacant Professorship has been filled by the appointment of M. Gabbert, M. D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Botanico-Medical College of Memphis.

Prof. Gabbert is extensively and favorably known throughout the South and the West, as an able practitioner and teacher of medicine. Educated as an Allopathist, he practised on the Old-School system for twelve years. In that time, he became thoroughly convinced of its inefficacy and positively injurious effect. The result was, his gradually, but at length thoroughly, informing himself



in regard to the doctrines of the New School, and his embracing the true Physo-medical system.

Prof. Gabbert, like ourselves, is a thorough convert to an innocent and sanative medication, but not an advocate of that eternal chiming of—*Steam and lobelia, lobelia and steam*—which has too long been heard, in the department of Theory and Practice, both in our own College and in others of the Physo-medical faith. His acceptance (which has already been signified) of the chair offered him, will, we trust, be a sufficient guarantee to our friends, in the South and the West, that, if our Institution is not Thomsonian in the old and limited sense of the term, yet its teachings are strictly in accordance with the principles of scientific and genuine medical reform.

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### THE AUTOPSY.

Sometime in December last, the wife of Mr. Charles Smith of Millbury, aged probably about 30, and having been married about 2 years, but without children, called on us for professional advice. She was, at that time, suffering from an anasarca condition of the feet and ankles. Her countenance was sallow, and, about her face and forehead, were numerous patches of bilious matter on the skin. Her pulse was frequent and feeble; her catamenia had not appeared for one or two months previous; and, in general, there was debility of the system, together with the experience of wandering but not severe pains about the back, sides, and head.

For a time after this application to us, she did not very faithfully carry out our prescriptions,—not considering herself sufficiently sick to justify the measure. After several weeks, however, the œdema of her lower limbs having extended nearly to the body and become so great, between the ankles and knees, as to rupture the skin and admit a free discharge of serum, she was persuaded, by ourselves and her friends, to enter on a faithful adoption of the prescribed means of relief.

In a short time after this, the anasarca was entirely removed. Her pulse, skin, and symptoms generally became somewhat im-

proved. We now began to anticipate her speedy recovery, when she called our attention to a slight enlargement just below the short ribs on the left side. It created but little apprehension ; but, after a few days, a new and more careful examination showed it to be caused by an internal tumor of some kind. We were also surprised to find the prominence, not as high as it before appeared, but essentially in the left ovarian region.

From this period her general health remained about the same, but the tumor gradually enlarged, till it became apparently of nearly the size of a man's hat. During this time, some slight nervous affections of the nature of chills had occasionally been experienced; but they were not of sufficient importance to be very noticable.

On Thursday, August the 8th, we visited her, in connexion with Dr. John Green of this city. Till this time, the nature of the tumor had not revealed itself. It had appeared to be of a sarcomatous character, and Dr. G. thought it still remained so, though the question was discussed, whether purulent matter had not already begun to form. On Friday the 9th, she experienced, (as she had done a few weeks before,) a season of nausea and retching ; at which time she threw up a good deal of morbid bilious matter of an indigo blue color. The stomach, however, was soon quieted ; and again her symptoms generally appeared as before.

From the period of discovering the tumor till August the 8th, we had examined it at each professional visit, and had found a uniform increase. On the 9th, we made no examination. On Saturday the 10th, a Dr. Swett of Kennebunk, Me., being on a visit to a neighbor and friend of Mrs. Smith, saw her by permission. On searching for the tumor, he discovered none. On Sunday, the 11th, being informed of the result of Dr. S's. examination, we visited her, and found that the tumor had indeed disappeared. There was, however, now some meteorism of the bowels. This increased, until, in a few days, it became considerable. It then gradually lessened, till, after two or three weeks from the time in which the tumor disappeared, it was nearly gone.

On Sunday, September 1st, Mrs. Smith expired, having lived three weeks and two days after the probable period of the rupturing of the tumor. During this season, she failed slowly and uni-



formly, but experienced very little pain. In the last few days of her life, she occasionally spoke of the existence of wandering pains in different parts of her body and limbs; but they were evidently of the neuralgic kind,—the result of weakness and her continued recumbent position. In the abdomen, she had no fixed pain whatever. The dejections, aided by a little gently laxative medicine, and the urinary discharges were quite regular, and generally natural to the last. The stomach received nourishment usually well; and there was no evidence of pulmonary disease. She did, it is true, have a very slight hacking cough for several days before her death; but it was not sufficient to attract attention, and we did not at that time, auscult her lungs, having previously found them evidently sound.

On Monday, September 2nd, assisted by Drs. Heywood, Woodward, and others of this city, we made a post mortem examination of the body. In the abdominal cavity, we found a slight amount of effused serum. The liver was generally healthy, though considerably less than the normal size. The left kidney internally was reduced to a complete mass of pus, which, on being examined under the microscope, proved to be entirely of the tuberculous kind. It was, however, encrusted with tuberculous living tissue, of almost cartilaginous hardness, and from one to two lines in thickness. A portion of the pelvis of the right kidney, in form and size very much resembling the yolk of a common hen's egg, was healthy in its structure. The remainder was a mass of tuberculous pus, but not, like the left kidney, encrusted in any way. The spleen, the pancreas, and the omentum were entirely absent. On the left side of the abdomen was situated a tumor, of a conical form, like an umbrella partially opened. The base of this cone was upward, and completely attached to the stomach, the diaphragm, and the adjacent tissues. It descended directly anteriorly to the left kidney, from which it was entirely disconnected, and below which its apex was about two inches. It consisted of a sarcomatous sack, about two lines in thickness and in structure appearing almost exactly like a beef's flank. This sack, which was ruptured near the top and from which about a pint of pus had escaped into the pelvis, still contained about three pints of the same material; so that, be-

fore the rupture, it must have contained about two quarts. It had formed but slight if any attachments to the viscera in any portion, except the superior. Its origin was uncertain; but to us it appeared to have commenced in the spleen, and to have been, in fact, an enlargement and disease of that viscus. The color and structure of the sack favored that supposition. Peritoneal inflammation, as the sequel of the rupturing of the sack and connected with the meteorism of the bowels, had extended itself over a large portion of the abdominal viscera.

In the pelvis, the bladder, the uterus, the right fallopian tube, and the right ovary were entirely healthy. The left ovary was converted into an almost entirely globular body, of the size of a small peach, and composed of a brown unorganized substance, of nearly the consistence of soft cheese but a little more friable. The left fallopian tube, with the adjacent portion of the peritoneum, was in a diseased condition, much like the crust of the left kidney.

In the thorax, the heart was found healthy. The lungs were not tuberculated, but the condition of the left lung was peculiar. The abdominal tumor had so crowded the diaphragm upward as very much to reduce the extent of the left pleural cavity; and, whether in part from that cause or not, the lung had become contracted, flattened, and adherent to the walls of the thorax. Indeed, in shape and size, somewhat like a small lady's hand with the fingers extended, it was so closely impacted upon the thoracic wall, and so covered by the existence of a false membrane, as to be, at first view, entirely imperceptible,—the membranous covering of the lung appearing simply like the posterior portion of the costal pleura. The right lung was nearly of the normal size, but contained two gangrenous cavities, each of half the size of a hen's egg and separated only by a septum of a line or two in thickness, in its thinnest portion. In fact, a slight incision, made by the scalpel, readily converted the two cavities into one.

About a week before the patient's death, petechiæ appeared anteriorly and posteriorly on the chest; and these extended themselves, until at last they became wide-spread and numerous. The gangrene of the lungs, we suppose, had its origin in that reduced condition of the blood, which gave rise to this ecchymosis.



In conclusion, we learn from the history of this case, three things of considerable interest. One is the fact, that the peritoneal inflammation consequent on the rupturing of the tumor, produced no appreciable amount of pain. Another is, the conclusive evidence here given us, that a small pelvic portion of one kidney could so fully perform the appropriate work of secretion, that the urine should remain essentially natural in quantity and appearance, to the last. A third particular is the evidence afforded, that emesis of morbid bilious matter is no proof of the existence of hepatic disease. The liver, being primarily a depurative organ, may find in the blood ingredients which it is its province to remove, and the secretion of which gives the peculiar character to the bile.

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## LUPUS.

Lupus is a kind of semi-malignant ulcer, appearing *usually* upon the nose, the lips, or some other portion of the face, but *occasionally* upon the ears or neck. It is characterized by tubera of a brownish-red or livid color, generally oval in form, but frequently rather flat. These tubera increase and terminate in ulceration;—when an ichorous discharge takes place, which at length concretes into crusts. Sometimes the parts, to some distance around, become involved, and the ulceration increases till considerable destruction is produced. It is an exceedingly intractable ulcer, and has been significantly called *Noli-me-tangere*—Touch-me-not, because of its usually becoming worse by the interference of medical men.

Dr. Druitt, in his work on Surgery, divides lupus into two kinds, the lupus exedens or eating wolf, and the lupus non-exedens or not-eating wolf.

In describing the former, he says, “A portion of the skin of the face (mostly on or near the ala nasi) inflames, swells, and becomes of a bright red tint. The swelling frequently occurs in the form of one or more *tubercles*. The inflamed surface sooner or later becomes excoriated, and secretes an ichorous matter, which dries into a scab. After a time, a painful, foul, excavated ulcer

forms ;—variable in its progress, sometimes stationary or partially cicatrizing ;—but, in the end, destroying the flesh of the nose and cheek ; and causing caries and exfoliation of the bones ;—till the patient, a horrid spectacle, dies worn out with pain ;—his eye dropping from its socket into the chasm made by the destruction of the cheek. This affection mostly occurs to adults,—especially if of weakly scrofulous habits, vitiated by intemperance and gross feeding.”

“The lupus non-exedens,” he says, “is a milder form, and attacks scrofulous children. It begins with shining tubercles, which ulcerate ; but the ulceration has a tendency to spread *widely* rather than *deeply* ;—causing prodigious deformity by the successive ulceration and puckered cicatrization of the face.”

Dr. Druitt also makes another variety of semi-malignant disease, which he calls the cancerous ulcer, or lepoides,—the latter term signifying *what resembles scales*. This, he says, “occurs on the face or neck of old people, especially below the under eyelid. It begins with a flat, brown, irregular crust, like a wart ;—which, falling off, displays an ulcer, with slightly elevated edges but no hardened base. Its progress is slow ; it is unaccompanied by hæmorrhage ; and it occasionally cicatrizes for a time.”

To our mind, the distinction between these several forms of disease is not clear. They evidently belong to one class ; and the several modifications are *incidental* rather than *characteristic*. They are termed semi-malignant affections ; because, on the one hand, they will not be spontaneously cured, but, if left to themselves, will destroy, not only the tissues in which they are situated, but progressively the adjacent parts, and finally, from their constant irritation and constitutional effect, will prove fatal to the person affected ; while, on the other hand, they do not attack the lymphatic vessels, nor appear in different and remote organs simultaneously, and, if once effectually removed, do not return.

Affections strictly malignant or carcinomatous, it is proper here to remark, depend on a worse constitutional taint ; immediately implicate the glandular system ; and usually discover themselves in contiguous and even in remote glands, at the same time. The pains attending these are spoken of as *darting* and *twinging* ; while



those of the semi-malignant class are only a sensation of heat, itching, tingling, or smarting. The malignant affections, too, after continuing for a considerable time, exhibit fungous granulations, and thickened, hardened, and everted edges, while the semi-malignant retain their peculiar character to the last.

Lupi, unlike the carcinomatous affections, are easily cured, by the local application of certain vegetable extracts. We prefer that of the *oxalis acetocella* [wood sorrel]. By the use of this for a few days, the morbid character of the ulcer becomes entirely changed, when the part will readily heal, on the application of almost any healing salve. To remove the peculiar taint of the blood and guard against a repetition of the disease, it is well to employ some anti-herpetic and depurative constitutional remedy; but that is not essential to the removal of the existing affection.

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### THE CASE OF DR. TWITCHELL.

The case of Dr. T., who, since the remarks of Dr. Bowditch were written, has deceased, is one of considerable interest, for several reasons.

First, it shows the utter futility of attempting to effect a cure of malignant tumors, by extirpating them with the scalpel. Either they will form anew very soon, or the morbid influence will be directed to some other part, external or internal, and a tumor or tumors elsewhere will be the consequence. If the formation is internal, the patient, of course, soon sinks under it.

Again, the case of Dr. T. shows, conclusively, the power of a rigid diet, in correcting even that state of the blood which generates tumors of the most malignant character. We would, however, here remark, by the way, that the diet of Dr. T. was not, as Dr. B. asserts, *strictly vegetable*. *Milk*, if we understand the matter, is not *vegetable*, but is *animal* food. We believe, that few, if any, persons who have attempted to live on a diet *exclusively* vegetable, have been able to maintain their healths for any length of time; but sooner or later they have been obliged to abandon their restrictive theory. The stern hand of nature uncompromisingly wars against such abstemiousness.

Finally, this case, in the treatment pursued by the doctor and in that recommended by his Allopathic brethen, shows how completely unyielding are the prejudices of the profession generally against the use of any remedial means not of Old-School origin and character. If none "of the rulers or of the Pharisees have believed" in the efficacy of a particular measure, they will sooner let their patients die and die themselves, than adopt it, even though the propriety of its use may be the dictate of reason, science, and common sense.

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### INTERESTING CURE OF CROUP.

On the morning of Wednesday, October 16th, we were called to see the child of a widowed lady, by the name of Copp, residing in Oxford, nine miles from this city. The age of the child was a little short of four years.

On the evening of Monday, October 14th, he was seized with croup. Some croup syrup and other simple remedies were given; and his case excited no alarm, till the morning on which we were summoned to him. Even then, the mother and friends, after they had despatched a messenger for us, regretted that they had so done, thinking, on reflection, that what alarm they had felt was un-called for.

On arrival, we found that adventitious membrane had extensively formed. Rising above the larynx, it was fully in view, on looking into the mouth; and, from clear indications, it appeared to reach throughout the trachea, and descend into the bronchi. On our informing the friends, that the chance for the child's recovery was exceedingly small, their surprise at the information and satisfaction that they had delayed no longer to call for medical advice, were equally great.

Promising the afflicted friends to do what we could for the little sufferer's relief, we prescribed essentially in accordance with the treatment directed in No. 3, Vol. 4, of the Journal. We, however, added, to the ingredients, there recommended to be used in about equal parts, one part of *podophyllum peltatum*, with the design of making the preparation, not only emetic, but purgative.



We ordered four tea-spoonfuls, of a strong decoction of these ingredients to be given every 15 minutes, so as to produce, not only frequent vomiting and almost constant nausea, but occasional active purging. We also ordered skunk oil, to be administered in tea-spoonful doses, to increase the relaxing and purgative effect, and to secure six or eight copious dejections in twenty four hours. Hen and skunk oil were freely and frequently applied to the throat and chest, and those parts were kept covered with an onion poultice. Drafts to the feet were directed; and, to crown all, by means of an instrument adapted to the purpose, we applied a saturated solution of nitrate of silver to the throat internally, forcing the instrument down into the trachea to the greatest practicable extent.

This treatment we continued unabatingly, applying the caustic on Wednesday morning, on Wednesday evening, and on Thursday morning. On each application, we came in contact with the albuminous deposit, and brought away portions of it on the instrument, while other portions were coughed up afterwards.

The unfavorable symptoms, however, continued unabated, till late on Thursday night or early on Friday morning. Then, simultaneously with the existence of large alvine discharges, the severity of the disease became sensibly lessened. On Friday morning, the child breathed comparatively easy. We, however, repeated the use of the caustic, and the effect was even greater than at either previous application. The patient continued to improve; and, on Saturday morning, we dismissed him, he having so far recovered, as to need no further attendance.

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## OUR NEXT VOLUME.

As we have but one more number of the present volume of the Journal to issue, we would remind our subscribers, that, if they wish to receive the 5th volume, they will be expected to *pay the dollar in advance*.

At the commencement of volume 4th, we changed the dress and style of the paper; and, at considerable additional expense, determined to make it more acceptable and profitable to the intelligent and reflecting portion of our readers. We are happy in saying,

that those improvements have been highly commended from various quarters, and that numerous friends do not now hesitate to speak of the publication as pre-eminently valuable.

On the whole, the Journal has been decidedly better sustained the present year, than any previous one. Heretofore it has been a matter of expense to us, in addition to the labor of editing, which has always been gratuitous. The current volume barely pays the direct expenditure for printing, &c. Hereafter, if our friends shall do their duty in endeavors to extend the circulation of the paper, it will, doubtless, pay a fraction for the editorial labor. We shall confidently look for that co-operation, which, it is now admitted on all hands, that the publication deserves. It has begun to be circulated in nearly all the States of the Union ; but the number of subscribers, in each State, is too limited. It more particularly has a claim for greater patronage on the friends in New England, as it is designed especially for this latitude.

We would therefore, suggest, to our subscribers in the various States, especially to those in New England, the desirableness of co-operating with the Editor in the following manner. Let those of each State unitedly resolve to put the Journal, if possible, into the hands of every Physo-medical practitioner in the State. In this way, by one hundredth part of the personal sacrifice which we have yearly to make, it might, in 1851, receive three times its present number of subscribers. This would be no small favor to us, as an individual, while it would be the means of greatly promoting the cause of true medical reform. Our brethren ought each to feel a responsibility in this matter ; and remember what, in olden time, was said, " A word to the wise is sufficient."

Before concluding these remarks, we will just add some reasons why (except in particular cases at the request of friends) we shall insist on payment's being made in advance. In the first place, it generally happens, that, in the course of the year, some of our subscribers die. The friends will usually allow the paper to be sent, month after month, till, after nearly or quite a year has elapsed, it may be, we are informed by the Post Master, that it *lies dead in the office*. In the next place, numerous subscribers change their residence, but never take the trouble to inform us. Of course, the Journal continues to be sent, till we get Post-office information, as



before. And, in the third place, it is perfectly surprising and prodigiously vexing to witness, first the negligence of subscribers, and then the amount of *apparent shuffling* which is employed to get rid of paying the dollar. We will trouble our readers with only a single example. It will serve sufficiently to illustrate a multitude of other cases.

In September, 1850, the Post-Master at Ithica, N. Y. sent us a request to stop sending the Journal to Dr. G. W. Saxton of that place. An examination of our directing book showed, that the doctor had paid only to July, 1849. We are in the habit of answering requests like this without a murmur ; for, without a resort to *law*, to which we are utterly opposed, we usually find complaint of no avail. For once, however, we concluded to speak of the impropriety of the request, and we said, in a letter to Dr. S., that, though he owed for more than one year, yet, if he would remit one dollar, we would erase his name from our list. Instead of the dollar, we received a letter, for which we were *minus* ten cents, in the matter of postage, asserting that we had received the dollar last January. The doctor spoke rather insolently of *his ability* to pay one dollar, but of *his disinclination* to do it.

Now it may be, that this dollar had been forwarded, and that it was used up, while in "Uncle Sam's" care ; but, if so, why did not the doctor, when he saw that credit was not promptly given in the Journal, send us a letter of inquiry, whether the money had safely, arrived ; and not insultingly assert, what he could not know, *that we had received it*.

We always *mean* to do the fair thing. We do not, however claim exemption from fallibility in our business matters. In three, or if we may now reckon this, in four instances only (we speak from memory), have we had reason to think that money was lost on the way, when sent by mail. The risk, we suppose, belongs, in all cases, to subscribers. Still, we ourselves would cheerfully bear *a share*, or even *the whole* of the loss, especially when the loser's means are limited, if he would *respectfully* inform us of the facts.

In conclusion, we most cordially tender our thanks to a *large number* of subscribers, who, the current year, have promptly sent us the *needful*, and a portion of whom have also written us in language of sustaining sympathy and encouragement.

NEW ENGLAND  
BOTANIC MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

CALVIN NEWTON, M. D., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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*"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground."*

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VOL. IV.

WORCESTER, MASS., DECEMBER 1, 1850.

NO. 12.

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Communications.

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STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

PROF. NEWTON ;—

You frequently call on the friends of the Physio-Medical School to contribute something for the "Botanic Journal," over which you are the presiding genius ;—a request which surely ought to be responded to promptly,—especially so, when we consider the number in our ranks who are eminently qualified to benefit the world by their efforts. Monthly, the "Journal," is sent out full of instruction, which has cost the editor hours of tiresome vigilance ; and, certainly, it is no more than justice demands, that those who enjoy the benefit of this labor and these sacrifices, made



on the one side, should be willing to "cast into the treasury their mite," for the general welfare. It is thus that my benevolence is so excited as to overcome a natural diffidence, and to offer a small item to the common stock, while I ask the indulgence of your readers for a moment, and call their attention to a few reflections, which I deem important, on the subject of Associations.

By a reflecting mind, union of effort is readily seen to be one of the best means of promoting or carrying forward any enterprise of a general character. In the work of extending the belief and influence of any *science*, in the diffusion of useful knowledge, or in the defence of our natural rights, association is, not only important, but absolutely essential. This principle is well understood in the religious community. It is the means mostly relied on by the church to promote the christian religion, and to spread the gospel. Societies of various kinds are organized and kept in operation to extend the word of truth to all parts of the globe. Hence the Bible Societies, the Tract Societies, the Missionary Societies, and Sabbath School Unions all over christendom; all of which are found to be, not only efficient agencies, but absolutely indispensable in the great work of evangelizing the world. Again, look at universal society. We find governments necessary; and these are established in order to secure the rights of individuals, which could not be enjoyed otherwise. The rights of liberty and property, and the means of education all depend on association. Why all the National, State, and County Committees of the various political parties in the country? The reason is obvious. They are found to be the only means of keeping or obtaining power. Politicians well know the importance of organization and union in order to secure their ends. Capitalists find safer investments, more stability, and surer prospects of gain, by association and union of interest. Labor, in the present state of society, is obliged to find protection, to a great degree, by such combinations among laborers as "Protective Unions" and mutual benefit companies. The various learned professions of the country have also adopted this principle. Hence the Medical, the Legal, and Ministerial Circles and Associations. Association seems to be the fixed order of universal society; and, with harmony, gives force and energy to mind.

So much by way of introduction. Now what should these facts teach us? Why, to go and do likewise. As reformers in medicine, having truth and science on our side, but surrounded by error and popular prejudice, let us act on the universal principle, and organize a Medical Association in every State in the Union, where one does not already exist ;—indeed, in every County in every State. In this way, our influence will be felt. And, not only should we organize officially, but we should go to the Legislatures and obtain charters, in order that we may enjoy the privileges and immunities that are enjoyed by others. The truth is, the *Physo-medical* Faculty and friends are not awake to their own interests. Associations should be formed where they do not exist. The press should be employed, with its mighty power, in disseminating the principles of the system broadcast over the country. The Colleges of the true kind should be sustained in a manner worthy of so just a cause; and, as soon as practicable, we should organize a National Society, whose influence shall be felt throughout the Union.

In many of the States, Associations have been formed, and are now in successful operation. In conclusion, allow me to ask our friends in the States of Maine and Vermont, if they will not, at once, commence the work. Also, Rhode Island should not neglect to do her part. It is important, that every effort should be put forth which shall tend to advance the cause of truth and humanity. Let each one do his duty and the work is done. The country is ripe for revolution. On the subject of medicine, the people are on the side of right, and desire a change. The old systems have failed to save, and they will trust them no longer.

Now, then, is the time for action. Let no man who has the least interest in the *Physo-medical* system, fail to do his whole duty. The young men especially are called upon to take a front rank in the onward march of medical science. For them, the facilities are infinitely superior to those enjoyed by their predecessors, who have been long in the ranks, and who have successfully fought the battles on many a contested field, without the aid of education or the means of obtaining it. In our midst, we now have an Institution of a superior character, with a learned Faculty and a magnificent building, now the greatest ornament, and becoming the



pride of Worcester,—an Institution of which all should be proud and the advantages of which the old and the young should eagerly seek. Let the Reformers, then arise, and take the vantage ground, within their reach. Especially, let the friends in New England not forget their duty to themselves. Let them rally around and support the *Worcester Medical Institution*; join the *Massachusetts Physo-Medical Society*; encourage the *Botanic Medical Journal*; and put forth all their energies. Then will the banner of triumph wave over us, having inscribed on its folds, in letters of living light, Victory! Victory!! Victory!!! G. W. C.

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### EXTREMES IN MEDICINE.

There are, in the science of medicine, as in most others, two extremes, to one or the other of which, different classes of physicians are prone to direct the most of their efforts. As an example of one of these, the Allopathic physicians may be mentioned. They direct an undue proportion of their investigations to the sciences of Physiology, Anatomy, Pathology, and Surgery; and they neglect other branches of Medical Study more intimately connected with clinical practice. Hence they are more familiar with technical terms, the abnormal conditions constituting disease, its etiology, and its prognosis, than they are with remedies adapted to change the diseased state to a normal one.

The principal benefit derivable from such physicians is merely to tell the suffering patient his true condition in respect to his disease. We, however, admit that they prescribe remedies; but these are, in general, of a palliative nature, and do not remove the difficulty for which they are prescribed.

At the other extreme are many of the strict followers of Dr. Samuel Thomson, who, perceiving the evils and defects of Allopathy, have even ridiculed the idea of learning anything, in regard to medicine, which Thomson did not recommend in his "Guide to Health." Believing that "heat is life and cold is death," and

considering the stomach as "the fire place" of the body, they think it sound philosophy to distend the parietes of this organ to its utmost capacity, with stimulating compounds, so as to keep the internal heat as much as possible above the external ; and, the better they can accomplish this object, the greater, they think, will be the victory gained. Their system of Anatomy embraces, in its comprehensive grasp, the whole stomach ; their Physiology the functions of the skin ; and their Surgery the best process to relax the muscles in reducing dislocations.

But the truly educated physician takes a medium position between these two extremes. Rejecting from his *Materia Medica* the deadly mineral poisons of the Allopathic School, he supplies their place with what is really useful among the Thomsonian or other remedies, whose action is truly sanative.

The union of these extremes has commenced a new era in the history of medicine ; and it remains for the advocates of Physio-medical Reform to publish to the world the superiority of their system over that of the Allopathists.

A few noble minds, whose motto is "Excelsior," have already undertaken this great work.

They are determined to collect, from other systems, materials with which to adorn and perfect their own. Medical Colleges are established in various parts of the country for the dissemination of true medical science.

In the New England States, the Worcester Medical Institution is accomplishing this worthy object. It has thus far succeeded beyond the expectations of many of its friends, especially in erecting a commodious and beautiful edifice.

Although, on the one hand, it receives the scorn of the bigoted portion of the Allopathists, and, on the other, the persecution of that class of reformers who boast of their own ignorance, yet, if its Faculty remain, unbiased by either party, the firm advocates of that great principle which is expressed in their Motto,

"Seize upon truth wherever found,  
On Christian or on Heathen ground,"

it is destined ultimately to succeed, and triumph over all opposition.

ELLIGENS.



## MASSACHUSETTS PHYSO-MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the *Massachusetts Physo-Medical Society* will be held in the city of Boston on Wednesday the 1st day of January next. It will be remembered, by the members and friends of this Society, that the business of the meeting will be highly important. The election of officers for the ensuing year is to take place. The application for a charter is to be considered. The dividing of the State into districts, for the establishment of District Societies under the Constitution, is to be effected. The general cause of *Medical Reform*, also, demands the counsel and advice of all the Physo-Medical practitioners in the State.

An invitation is earnestly extended to all the physicians of our order in this Commonwealth, to attend the meeting and to join us in our efforts to advance the interests of humanity in the promulgation of *science* and *benevolence*. It is expected, that a portion of the time will be occupied in the *reports of cases*, the *interchange of sentiments* among the members, and the imparting and receiving of professional information. It is hoped, that all will come prepared to throw into the treasury of science some *new fact*, that will encourage us in the way of duty and add to our professional skill. Let the word be "*Light—more light still.*"

"The Annual Discourse will be delivered, at 7 o'clock, P. M., by BENJ. F. HATCH, M. D., of New Bedford. All will remember that action, determined and persevering action, is the only means by which any measure can be carried to its successful completion. Let us then attend this meeting, *en masse*, with a united and determined resolution to advance "*the cause*" by all honorable means within our power, and to give it an impetus in its onward course towards its ultimatum. This Society, already numbering sixty members, is still in its infancy; but, should all the physicians in the State who are favorable to our views, attend this meeting, and join us, heart and hand, it would soon arrive at mature manhood and exert a powerful influence for good.

Brethren, lay aside all pecuniary considerations, and let nothing but absolute duty keep you away. We shall soon have an efficient

organization in this Commonwealth, which will, not only be a credit to the *Physo-Medical School* of Massachusetts, but encourage our medical brethren throughout the Union. Professors, constituting the Faculties of the various medical Institutions, and Physicians of the Reform School in other States are fraternally invited to meet with us, to join us in our counsels, and aid in the promulgation of a common faith.

The meeting will be held at Washington Hall, Bromfield Street, and will commence at 10 o'clock, A. M., to continue through the day and evening.

GEO. W. CHURCHILL, *Secretary*.

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### ALLOPATHY IN DYSPEPSIA.

[The remarks below are appended to a letter sent us on private business. If the author is a "backwoodsman," as he says, he yet writes very creditably,—better, by far, than some of our former correspondents, who have *nominally* had a Collegiate education. We have made a very few verbal corrections only; and we assure Mr. S., that we shall be pleased with more communications written *as badly* as the following. EDITOR.]

PROF. NEWTON:

Dear Sir,—I am a sort of backwoodsman, not qualified to write for the papers;—else, I would relate a little of my experience in medical matters, which began as early as the year 1828.

I was then reduced beyond ability to labor, by an attack of the dyspepsia and liver complaint, in the mildest form. Well, I doctored myself, with the assistance of my friends, till I did not know what to do; and I was so low I could not labor. I then made application to the old family physician,—one whose reputation stood as high as that of any perhaps in town. He assured me, that cases of the kind with which I was afflicted, were very common; and he expressed no fears at all, that, in a few days, I should be able to be about my business. To my utter astonishment and discom-



future, however, he helped me the wrong way ; for I found, that, under his treatment, my course to the grave was hastening fast.

At last, a new thing broke upon my astonished "vision." An entire new thing then in this section of country had just appeared,—viz. a dealer in nature's remedies, a Botanic physician. I resolved on seeking him out ; and, with a horse and carriage, being just able to ride, I soon found his residence.

I have scarcely room to add any thing at this time. Suffice it to say, that, in less than three weeks, I was able to go about my ordinary business. I immediately became a convert to the Thomsonian or, as it seems to be now more generally called, the Botanic system or practice of medicine. I have but just begun my story, yet I must close by saying, that my attention has ever since been directed to the study of medicine.

Respectfully and truly yours, O. B. SCOTT.

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### CENSORS' MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the Board of Censors of the Massachusetts Physo-medical Society in Lowell, on Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 1850, at 10 o'clock, A. M., in accordance with the 12th Section of the 3rd Article of the Constitution of said Society.

The whole section is as follows :

"The Censors shall faithfully examine all candidates for the Membership of the Society, (not graduates of Medical Colleges,) in the various branches of medical science usually taught in Medical Colleges ; and, for this purpose, they shall hold a meeting annually, on the last Wednesday of December, in the city of Lowell, and another meeting annually, on the last Wednesday of June, in the town of Springfield, at such hour and place as the Chairman shall designate."

Physicians wishing to be admitted as Members of this Society, on examination, will avail themselves of this opportunity to appear before the Board of Censors for approval.

JAMES S. COLEMAN, *Chairman.*

## APPRECIATION OF THE JOURNAL.

[The following is extracted from the private letter of a gentleman residing in the central portion of the State of New York. Personally, he is a stranger to us, but we have heard his character spoken of in terms of high approbation. We presume he will not object to our giving his thoughts to the public; and we, on the other hand, shall be grateful for whatever assistance he may be able to render us, in extending the circulation of the Journal. EDITOR.]

Prof. Newton;—

Dear Sir,—I have received, with much satisfaction, the back numbers of your New England Botanic Medical and Surgical Journal. I have, also, received a letter from yourself, which does me good;—so filled with the spirit of kindness and good will, why should it not? I have looked those numbers over and over again—have read them carefully through; and I feel pleased, beyond description, with their appearance.

I do not know how well the Journal will take, nor how much I can do for it; but, if it be agreeable to yourself, I feel so well pleased with it (it is so convenient for preservation and binding), that I will exert myself, to the utmost of my ability, to give it the largest circulation possible. As I design to spend nearly or quite all my time, travelling and hunting about for subscribers for newspapers and periodicals of various kinds, and as every feeling of my heart is on the side of the Journal, I will endeavor to make the interest of that my own.

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Selections.

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From the Physo-Medical Recorder.

## PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

BY JOHN S. PRETTYMAN, M. D., MILFORD, DEL.

The immense amount of suffering and death, produced in the world by this terrible destroyer, should lead the profession to *extend* their efforts to curtail its ravages and divest it of its terrors; which might be done, to a very great extent, if the people were properly



informed in regard to its causes and treatment. The irrational, unphilosophical, and dangerous plan of treatment, instituted and pursued by the "Allopathic profession," does much to add to the destruction of human life by this form of disease. Patients have said to me, that the treatment they received from their usual "Allopathic physician" would, if continued, kill them in a very short time ; as they felt worse, as day succeeded day : and I have not the least doubt of the truth of their statements. Their prescriptions are made under a mistaken notion of its pathological developments ; and, if their remedies were not poisonous, they would have an effect directly antagonistic to the required indications, and, consequently, produce incalculable injury.

There are men in the "Allopathic profession," who have pursued their pathological investigations to an extent unprecedented in the history of medical science ; but, being guided by false theories and illusory beacons, they have failed to arrive at the haven of certainty in diagnosis. If these fathers of pathological research so often fail in their treatment of the maladies incidental to our race, how much oftener and how much more deplorable the consequences that result from the mal-practice of the thousands of tyros with which our land is deluged, who go forth, with lancet and poison in their hands, knowing all things but their own ignorance, scattering their dangerous drugs broadcast over the land, without judgment or conscience to stay their blighting course. Pardon me, reader, while I relate a case that came under my own observation :

Mr. C. H., aged thirty-five years, of strong constitution and regular business habits, was attacked with disease, the most prominent symptom of which was dizziness in the head or vertigo, increasing gradually until it became very distressing. He dispatched a message for "his physician," who very soon arrived, went through with his usual egotistical display, and wound up by ordering a plaster of cantharides on the back part of the neck and drawing several ounces of blood from the arm of the patient ! He then took his leave, to return again "*secundum artem*," as is usually the case after such prescriptions. On his return, the next day, he found, as the result of his practice, a tremendous vesication on the neck, great actual excitement, vertigo still the same, and the patient much worse than at his previous visit. He was a *case* good for forty dollars at least ! Now came the "Goliath of the *materia medica*," mercury, administered in small quantities, to produce ptyalism—nothing less would save him ! Just at this awful crisis I saw the patient, from whom was received the above account. After the most rigid examination, I found nothing to justify this "quackery," but simply a disordered stomach, producing vertigo

through the medium of the ganglionic nervous communication,—prescribed an emetic, which caused a great quantity of putrid ingesta and morbid gastric secretion to be dislodged and evacuated, and the patient recovered immediately, without taking another grain of medicine; and, at the next visit, he was sitting up, “clothed in his right mind, breathing destruction to quacks and quackery.” In reality, this “medical Solon” had bled, blistered, and poisoned the patient, to cleanse a disordered stomach!! That is *Allopathic* science!

The doctor, here alluded to, is one of the first class of practitioners in our own little State. To return to my subject:

A knowledge of the laws of life and health is required of every individual in community who desires to live out his allotted time; and it becomes the duty of the physician to dispense this knowledge in the families with which he is associated as counsellor, by pointing out these natural laws and the penalty attached to their infringement. The disease which I now treat is one of the most direful results of this violation, either in the patients themselves, or in their ancestors. The symptoms are too well known to be enumerated here. We will, therefore, notice some of its causes—one of the most fruitful of which is mechanical compression and consequent contraction of the chest, thereby impeding respiration and vitalization of the blood, causing deposits of impurities from the circulation that should be evacuated through the etherial medium provided by nature. It is well known, to every “Physiological physician,” that, if the function of respiration be impeded, or improperly performed, debility in all others is sure to follow, in consequence of the great mass of innutritious and poisonous material that is compelled to pass the rounds of the circulatory apparatus, instead of the pure, sparkling, and highly nutritious “pabulum of life.” With these laws before us, who can see young ladies, merely for the sake of keeping pace with fashion, screwing up the chest with corset, or anything that produces the same effect, without warning them of the awful consequences; or, if we find them sitting, half doubled, ten, twelve, or fourteen hours of the twenty-four, sewing, knitting, or reading, can we refrain from telling them of the dreadful suicide they are committing—and, if they are to be mothers, of the terrible calamities they are sure to entail on their offspring? There is, also, a terrible retribution awaiting those parents who rear their children as the gardener does his hot-house plants, preparing them for uselessness in life and a premature grave. The fashionable practice of swallowing poisonous drugs has been enumerated, by many writers, as another cause of consumption, which it doubtless is, as well as a great proportion of all the diseases



to which our race is subjected. Oh! the sins of the Allopathic profession! They tower in mountains to the very heavens, and spread through the vast expanse of the universe, shrouding our own fair Columbia in weeds of mourning—slaying our own *chief men* and matrons, our yeomen and their children. May “God forgive them—they know not what they do.”

I have, as far as my limited experience extends, generally found those cases terminate in some species of dropsical affection, which end, if possible, worse than phthisis—the patient dying the most sickening, loathsome, putrid mass of corruption that it is possible to describe, and scarcely to be comprehended by the imagination. Inhaling irritating poisonous atoms that float in the atmosphere, is sometimes a cause of the malady. Bronchitis often terminates in consumption, when assisted by poison, but never when treated on physiological principles.

**TREATMENT.**—Of this disease it may be truly said, that “an ounce of prevention is worth a ‘ton’ of cure;” for, when the disease is fairly seated, nothing but the most skilful treatment, perseveringly applied, is ever crowned with success; while, in a majority of cases, it is easily prevented by a proper attention to position and habits. Even those who have its seeds planted by the indiscretions of their ancestors, may for a long time prevent its developement. In all stages, it is useless to expect a permanent cure, unless the predisposing cause be removed. Compression of the lungs, by the pressure of a contracted chest, being the most fruitful cause, and being present to a greater or less extent in all cases, the first effort at a cure should be to produce permanent expansion of the chest, thereby enlarging its cavity and relieving the compressed thoracic viscera. This *may* be accomplished by the voluntary efforts of the patient. Erect position must be maintained and the lazy habit of stooping overcome. To assist the patient in his efforts to conquer this habit, I usually apply a *good* shoulder brace, one that keeps the shoulders constantly drawn back to their proper position,—then instruct him to exercise in the open air as much as the weather and his health will permit, filling the lungs at all times to their fullest extent. For this purpose I often recommend a well constructed inhaling tube which I have found to be very useful in increasing the capacity of the chest. Let these mechanical remedies be well and perseveringly applied, assisted by innocent depurating and strengthening therapeutic agents, and the results will be favorable, if indeed the case be curable under any kind of treatment. When the lungs are much loaded with purulent, ulcerous matter, I usually employ an innocent but powerful sirup, prepared according to the following:

R. *Ictodes foetida* (skunk cabbage), *arum triphyllum* (Indian turnip), each one lb.; *marrubium vulgare* (horehound), *eupatorium, perfoliatum* (boneset), each two lbs.; *inula helenium* (elecampane), four lbs.; *capsicum annuum* (cayenne), quarter lb.: these articles in coarse powder boiled in six gallons of water until evaporated to four, strain, and add fifteen lbs. crushed loaf sugar, simmering slowly until the sugar is well cooked—pour off, leaving the sediment, and when cool add a quart of the tincture of lobelia and two gallons of best French brandy.

The depurating and strengthening effects of this preparation, are equal to anything I have ever used. Many, in this vicinity, speak in the most exalted terms of its efficacy; but many preparations, containing these properties, can be prepared to suit the circumstances of the physician and the patient. After the lungs seem relieved, the quantity of the medicine must be lessened, gradually, until the powers of the constitution are able to sustain the system. As a tonic, I would recommend "*Acidum sulphuricum aromaticum*" (sulphuric acid, three and a half fluid ounces; bruised ginger, one ounce; bruised cinnamon, one and a half ounces; alcohol, two pints), from ten to fifteen drops in a wine-glass of water and sugar, three times daily. Under this treatment I find my patients improve rapidly; and, if taken at the outset of the malady, the results are always favorable.

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From the Physo-Medical Recorder.

## FEMALE EDUCATION.

BY E. A. ALDRICH.

All beings are, by nature, endowed with certain powers, which, when properly cultivated, will qualify them for any station they are designed to fill. We then ask, What are woman's natural powers? What kind of education should she receive, in order to develop those powers, and what sphere has the God of nature designed that she should fill? All must admit, that, by nature, woman possesses the elements of symmetry, grace, and beauty of person, in a superlative degree. Should it not, then, be the unceasing object of education to unfold those qualities in all their loveliness? Nature is responsible for all our endowments; she plants the germs, but we are responsible for their developement. Either nature or art, alone, is comparatively useless; but, blend them—endowment and art, nature and education—and our highest conceptions, of what *should* constitute the image of divine perfection, are more



than realized. We also acknowledge, that, for the sweet courtesies of the heart, woman as far surpasses man, as the full disk of the moon does its infant, curved, and tiny form. But are these flowers of Eden, or mere nymphs or fairies—ever about her yet seemingly distant, ever present yet mysteriously strange—the result of some occult cause beyond the illumination of science, for ever her hope but never her rational possession? Or are these brilliant gems—these tropical qualities of the heart—accessible, capable of enumeration, cultivation, and endless improvement? In an ancient volume, we learn, that the Tree of Life was planted in the midst of the garden. Beautiful location, genial residence—surrounded by all the other trees, adorned, beautified and made odorous by the sweet fragrance of all the flowers of Paradise. And an equally fit location, for the most divine Powers, is the heart of woman. This is the home of all the softer virtues—the abode of that heavenly group, the moral graces. 'This is the supposed lost Tree of Life—this the primeval fount of happiness. The fruit of it constitutes the family of the virtues. Eden's Tree of Life appears, in the nineteenth century, as the vital moral powers. The spirits of Paradise, the companions of Eve—the human heart their dwelling place—there they will return and re-establish their reign of peace.

With regard to woman's mental powers, the prevailing opinion is, that she is endowed with the same kind as man, but of a more delicate organization—the same in variety and in office, but different in point of ability and boldness of purpose. We grant that there is, in the fineness and delicacy of the mental fibre, a difference—but that difference consists in a completeness of construction, which brings her mind into the sphere of intuition, rather than leaves it in the sphere of facts and inferences; and, in consequence of this difference in structure, her perception is quicker, thought more rapid, and friendship more pure and persistent.

Impartial history gives a few examples of equal female mental excellence with the male, notwithstanding her situation in life has been, heretofore, unfavorable to the more extensive mental pursuits, while his has been most favorable. The school house and the academy have ever awarded to the young lady the prize in the mental chase. And, if society would permit and aid her to act as prominent a part in literature, science, and art, as man, we doubt not, that she would fully equal the present occupants of those rich fields of mental development.

Woman, for physical beauties and ennobling attractions—for the purity, tone, and variety of the spiritual qualities—is peerless. In the realm of mind, the only difference is that of a higher and more

etherial structure, which, instead of impeding her natural career, actually adds newness to her wings and swiftness to her flight.

With this knowledge of her powers, may we not be enabled to properly prescribe her education? Yes. Whatever develops and perpetuates the symmetry, grace, and health of person—whatever will quicken perception, enlarge observation, extend and deepen thought, correct and enrich speech, purify action—whatever will protect and beautify the primary temple of Divinity, the heart—should constitute female education. The means for this development are incorporated and woven in the constitution of substances and being—they are scattered world-wide, from the pebble to the mountain, from the lichen to the magnolia, from the coral to the orang, from the infant to man and woman. The vast libraries of civilization are but feeble proxies of nature. The only power that can perceive, obtain, and apply those means, is the mind of each individual. The intellect is a divine lamp, a growing revelator, which reveals the principles and philosophy of things and beings.

This torch should be lit up in early life and permitted to shine on and on. Then each beam of light will react upon its source, ever increasing in brilliancy, and thus establish a perpetually-growing mental luminary, which will extend perception, deepen thought, and enrich the heart. The school room and books are but the lower rounds in the ladder of her ascension, mere handmaids of nature.

They *alone* dwarf the intellect and render woman little more than a repository of unmerchtable goods—a receptacle of learning without a soul. She has more mental powers than memory and imitation. She has imagination, reason, and will, and they are to be aroused into action for life. Here life should be an embodiment of herself, a true portraiture. Behind and underneath all she says, does, and thinks, should lie the woman. She should be *true to herself*, though the heavens fall. Her reputation, her divine position, the world, man, demand it. Philosophy begs of her, reason implores her, to stop not, till this republic of women become cultivators of science, examples of free inquiry and profound investigation. If a colony of men could say, "Liberty or Death";—with how much more propriety might a republic of women say, Intelligence or Death. Education is the philosopher's stone—a Chinese wall to American women, the naval and military forces of England to her protection and character. And shall not woman make every effort to secure this golden treasure? If the wisdom of Socrates, Shakspeare, and Newton, is ennobling to man, is it not equally so to woman? Her sphere invites her to the retirement of reason, to the shades of love, and the society of beauty,



innocence, and intelligence. This is her destiny; the revolving wheels of time are fast bearing her to this noble eminence. Then, with her mind illumined, her heart pure, and her person beautiful, will she banish ignorance, stop crime, and remove evil—win back the lost spirit of the heart, diffuse universal intelligence, establish social order, uncover the sparkling fountain of truth and happiness, and secure the reign of those daughters of the skies, Peace, Justice, and Love!

From the Physo-Medical Recorder.

### ANODYNE.

EXTRACTUM LACTUÆ SOLIDUM (SOLID EXTRACT OF LACTUCA ELONGATA). BY PROFESSOR BROWN.

I wish to invite the attention of practitioners to the above most valuable therapeutic agent.

It is well known, that our practitioners have long felt the need of a safe and efficient anodyne, that could be exhibited in small medical doses.

From experiments that have been made with the lactuca, we feel justified in saying, that it just fills the vacuum in our materia medica so manifest to all our practitioners.

Some of the species of the lactuca were recognized and used by Hippocrates, and other ancient physicians, on account of their anodyne properties; but modern practitioners have mostly overlooked them.

Probably some of the species may possess narcotic properties, but the lactuca elongata is believed, by all who have carefully tested its properties and action upon the human system, to be destitute of narcotic properties.

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES.**—The lactuca (wild lettuce) is in the form of a thick or solid extract—soluble in cold or warm water, but sparingly so in cold alcohol.

**PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.**—It softens and reduces the rapidity of the pulse, by allaying nervous excitement and equalizing the circulation; and it reduces animal heat. It allays pain, quiets the nervous system, and induces quiet refreshing sleep, without producing constipation, or giving rise to any of the unpleasant symptoms resulting from the use of opium or any of its preparations.

**USES.**—The lactuca may be very beneficially employed as an anodyne and antispasmodic.

It is admissible in all cases where there is morbid excitement of the vascular system.

It is exceedingly valuable in all nervous and spasmodic affections—as chorea, neuralgia, rheumatism, gout, nervous headache, tetanus, hysteria, &c.

It is also highly valuable in all affections of the lungs, allaying the cough and quieting nervous excitement.

Average dose, one to five grains ; which may be repeated as often as circumstances require, without giving rise to any unpleasant symptoms.

The lactuca, as prepared and sold by Drs. Hill, Crutcher, & Co., No. 131, Fifth street, Cincinnati, Ohio, must and will hold a very high and important position in our improved materia medica.

The article is neatly put up and sold, by the above named house, at one dollar per ounce.

Let all our practitioners give it a fair trial, and we feel confident their highest expectations will be fully realized.

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From the N. Y. Journal of Medicine.

## CASE OF SEVERE GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE AXILLA, FOLLOWED BY RECOVERY WITHOUT AMPUTATION.

BY SAMUEL TYLER, M. D., OF FREDERICK CITY, MD.

On the 26th of May, at one o'clock P. M., I was sent for to see a lad, ten years of age, who had received a gunshot wound, anteriorly, in the upper third of the right arm. When I arrived at the spot, distant some six miles, I found the patient in a very faint condition, the wound having bled profusely.

Upon examination, I found the load, which was of large sized shot, had entered at the upper third of the humerus, near the anterior edge of the pectoralis major, penetrating the biceps flexor cubiti and coraco-brachialis, making its exit through the latissimus dorsi and teres major, and doubtless severing, in its course, the long head of the triceps muscle. From the character of the hemorrhage, the extent of the wound, and the faint condition of the patient, no doubt existed as to the complete division of the brachial artery. The subclavian being secured by pressure, the boy was conveyed to his residence in town ; and, on his arrival, I immediately prepared to amputate the limb at the humeral joint. Being resisted entirely in this proceeding by the parents, I could do nothing but dress the wound (the subclavian being kept secured by pressure, as I feared hemorrhage to a great degree when reaction should come on) with warm poultices, clearing it at the same time



of all extraneous matter. During the progress of the case, the forearm was very cool, but evinced no disposition to gangrene. Without troubling the reader with the details of the case, he recovered entirely; the limb being nourished though feebly, by the anastomosing vessels. Six months from the date of the accident, no pulsation could be felt in the ulnar, or radial arteries, though he was examined by several eminent physicians. Such a result is certainly extremely rare, at least so far as we can depend on the "recorded" annals of surgery.

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### MISS BLACKWELL M. D.

A private letter has been transmitted to us by a mutual friend which we are not at liberty to insert in full, by which we learn that Miss Blackwell continued her studies in Paris, up to July last. The disease of one of her eyes, contracted from a patient under her observation has proved a serious calamity, the sight being nearly destroyed. In July she was at *Grafenberg*, at the hydropathic establishment of *Priessnitz*, partly to try the effects of his system upon herself, and, partly, to study the effects of his system upon the numerous patients congregating there, with a view to ascertain what success is really attained, and to determine how much is to be attributed to the therapeutic action of water, and how much to the general hygienic condition under which the patients are placed. She states that she has received a courteous invitation to pass several months in London, every facility for attending the hospitals and schools having been promised; and that it is her intention to avail herself of this opportunity to institute a comparison between French and British practice. *Buffalo Medical Journal*.

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### NEW MODE OF REMOVING WENS—THEIR COMPOSITION.

M. A. Legrand, having several times witnessed fatal consequences following the removal of wens by incision, had been induced to practise the following operative proceeding. The skin around the base of the tumor was divided by repeated linear applications of pure potash. By the continued employment of these, the line of eschar becomes deeper, until the tumor is detached. It is neces-

sary in this way, as with the knife, to destroy the whole growth, or it will re-appear. M. Legrand had put this plan into execution thirty-two times, without erysipelas or any other ill result having followed.

M. Legrand added, that, having examined two wens, one from the scalp, the other from the forehead, he had found that the one consisted of an hypertrophied sebaceous follicle, and that the pathological basis of the other was a hair follicle. The contents of both were chiefly fatty matter, epithelium cells, and granules. In that removed from the forehead, crystals of cholesterine were found in abundance.—*London Medical Gazette*.

## NEW METHOD OF RELIEVING RETENTION OF URINE WITHOUT THE USE OF THE CATHETER.

BY M. J. J. CAZENAVE.

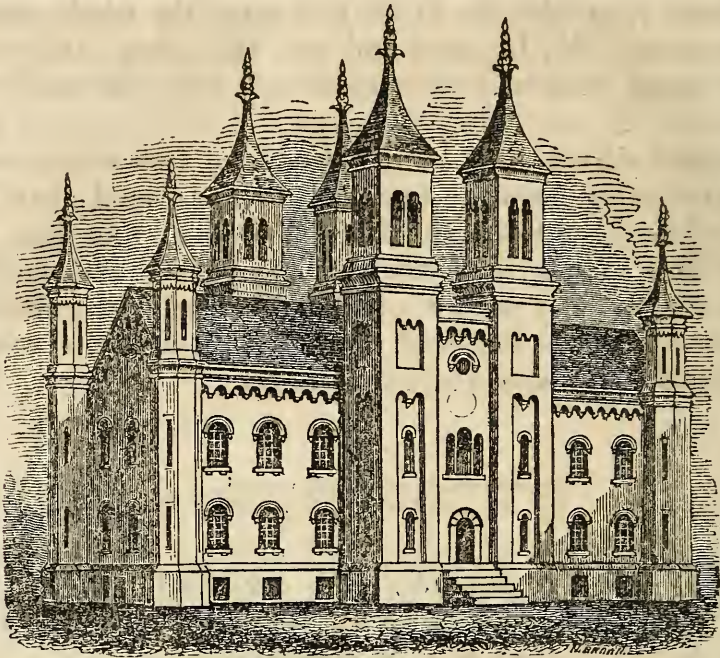
When called to a patient having retention, complete or incomplete, M. Cazenave in the first place directs the large intestines to be cleared out by an enema. When this has returned, a second is administered, but consisting solely of a quart of cold water. Absolute rest on the bed is enjoined ; while cloths dipped in cold water, or, better still, bladders of ice-cold water, or pounded ice, are applied to the anus, perineum, thighs, and hypogastrium. If the patient do not void his urine in the course of half an hour, or void it only very scantily, he is placed at the edge of the bed, which is properly guarded, and a stream of cold water is poured on the region of the bladder during from 20 to 25 minutes. After the lapse of this time, another enema of cold water, and small smooth fragments of ice, are introduced into the rectum, the cold applications to the external parts being at the same time continued.

The cases in which this mode of treatment is found applicable are those in which the retention proceeds from acute inflammation or spasm.—*L'Union Medicale*.

## WATER-CURE IN INDIANA.

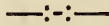
The Editor of the *State Journal* says, "Water establishments are greatly on the increase in this country, and patients have been treated at many of them with great success.—*Water-Cure Journal*.





[Worcester Medical Institution.]

## Editorial.



### WORCESTER MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

In this world of unequal fortune, nothing, we find, does more than a habitation and a name, to give aggrandizement to any public Institution. We trust, we have not been actuated by motives such as governed the inhabitants of Shinar's plain, when they said, "Go to, let us build us a city, and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven;" but we have desired that the Trustees of our Institution might have a building of their own, not merely because of its actual conveniences, which are numerous and important, but because of its effect in giving us a reputation both at home and abroad.

This latter class of benefits we are already beginning to experience. The towering magnificence of our recently erected edifice is attracting the notice of travellers and visitors to our city. A writer, in a late number of the Boston Daily Journal, says, among other things,—

“But I have digressed from my notice of Worcester, and will now return. The hand of improvement is still busy ;—and, prominent among the objects upon which it is engaged, is the College which is being erected on a fine, elevated, and slightly location, which is to be known as the *Worcester Medical Institution*. This Institution was incorporated by our Legislature of 1849. The edifice now ready for its use, will be, if I can judge from the design, one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. It is to be of the *Romanesque* order, with eight towers, which serve as receptacles for the various flights of stairs to the different departments. The first story above the basement is to be occupied by the Museum, Library, residence of the Janitor, Dean's office, and Working Laboratory of the Chemical Department. In the second story will be the Lecture Rooms, which are to be arranged in the form of amphitheatres. The private entrances for the Professors are by the smaller towers at the corners.

“The building is situated on Union Hill, a little southeast of the centre of the city, and presents a front of one hundred and fifteen feet in length. The main portion of the building is sixty-four feet deep, and the wings forty. The building will cost about \$15,000. The land was generously given to the friends of the Institution by JOHN F. POND Esq., who added to it a liberal donation of \$1400 towards completing the building. The edifice will be finished during the coming winter, and, as I have before remarked, will be an ornament to that portion of the city. DR. CALVIN NEWTON of Worcester is President of the Institution.”

In regard to the number of the next Class, our prospects are becoming more and more cheering. From week to week, new information is received of students who expect to be with us in the spring ; and we are even now beginning to feel, that the reputation of our Institution is established beyond the capability of retrogression.

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## MORROW'S THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Several of the medical and other Journals have, some time since, chronicled the death of Thomas V. Morrow, M. D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati. In the death of Dr. Morrow, we regard the



profession as having sustained no ordinary loss. We are pleased, however, to learn, that he has left the materials for his work on Theory and Practice in a state of forwardness, and that Prof. I. Gibson Jones, his successor in office at Cincinnati, will soon complete it and give it to the public. We shall look for its publication with deep interest. The work, if it shall prove what we have reason to expect, is very much needed by the profession.

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### FEMALE MEDICAL EDUCATION.

As President of the Worcester Medical Institution, we have been earnestly solicited to give whatever influence we may have with its Trustees, in favor of the immediate establishment of a Female Department in the Institution. It is desired, that, in this Department, ladies may have the opportunity, either to pursue a thorough medical Course and graduate regularly as young men do, or, by an attention simply to obstetrics and some kindred branches, to qualify themselves to act the part of midwives.

Among the various objects of benevolence and plans of usefulness, we suppose it is natural and proper, that an individual should select and primarily devote himself to some one, and that, in that one, he should feel the deepest interest. Now the primary, and almost the only object of our life as far as this world is concerned, is to advance the Physio-medical system of medicine,—in other words, to do what we can to explain the theory and establish the practice of a purely innocent and sanative medication. We have a sincere, but yet a subordinate, interest in a variety of the benevolent movements of the day; and, as far as they will not conflict with,—especially, wherein they will further our leading purpose, we are pleased to give them our personal aid.

In regard to educating females at our College, we have not yet had the opportunity to consult many either of our Trustees or of our Faculty. In the course of a few weeks, however, the matter will be decided, and the result will be given to the public in the January number of the Journal. In the mean time, any commu-

communications from judicious advisers will be thankfully received. If any of our readers are in possession of any new light which they can throw on this subject, we wish them to speak out.

We have not the slightest sympathy for those sweeping and indiscriminate denunciations of existing customs which we sometimes hear; nor are we disposed to pursue, in a *wild goose* chase, after every *new fangled* notion of reform in society. But whatever measures, adapted to promote any genuine moral and intellectual improvement, the sober sense of an intelligent community will sustain, we are ready, both to adopt ourselves, and to recommend to the adoption of others.

We believe that the duties devolving on the two sexes are, to a considerable extent, reciprocal. If one of them, is "the weaker vessel," we see not why, in proportion to its strength, it should not be as fully laden with stores of cultivation as the other. Indeed, we would be glad to have the educational advantages of females as good as those of males. In some particulars, however, it must be admitted, that the Author of our being, has assigned, to each sex, its appropriate sphere; yet there are numerous employments which may be indiscriminately engaged in. The simple question is, Where are we to rank the duties of the obstetrician, with others of a kindred character?

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PROF. REUBEN.

We are pleased to learn, by the October No. of the New York Eclectic Medical and Surgical Journal, that our young friend, Levi Reuben, M. D., a graduate of our Institution in the Class of 1849, has been appointed to the chair of Physiology, Pathology, and Forensic Medicine, in Central Medical College, now established at Rochester, N. Y. Prof. Reuben is a young man of unblemished moral character, a sound mind, and a good degree of classic cultivation and taste, as well as of competent professional attainments. We sincerely wish him and the Institution with which he is now connected a large share of prosperity.



## OUR NEXT VOLUME.

In closing the 4th volume of the Journal, we wish to direct the attention of our readers to our remarks in the 11th number, on pages 358, 359, and 360. In those remarks, we offered some reasons, valid as we conceived, why, with the exception of the case of some personal friends, we shall decline sending the next volume of the Journal to those who do not pay in advance.

To what was there said, we here add, that a reference to our books shows our subscribers, since we commenced the periodical bearing, at first, the name of the Eclectic, to be indebted to us about \$1000. This sum, had we received it, would have made a very comfortable little amount for our pockets. About one moiety of it would have been so much paid for editorial labor. The other moiety would have supplied the place of what we have actually paid out to sustain the publication.

We, however, shall make no *ex post facto* laws. As the paper, in 1850, has essentially paid its direct outgoes, we may hope, that, in future, it will afford us a small profit. At any rate, we are not a little gratified, that a portion of our readers have highly appreciated our efforts, the past year. Some have expressed themselves with enthusiastic interest, and represented single articles as richly worth the price of the whole volume.

The plan which we have adopted, of arranging the communicated, the selected, and the editorial articles under separate heads, has given a prominence to each class; and we now bear no more of a deficiency in the amount of original matter. Five of the twelve numbers consist entirely of original composition; and several of the remaining numbers contain but a few pages of what is selected. The whole, we trust, has been reading of deep interest to reflecting minds,—especially, to those of the profession.

We shall endeavor to render the 5th volume, at least, as valuable as any preceeding one. If possible, we shall give it new attractions for those whose motto, in regard to the physical organization, is, *Know thyself*. In short, we shall do what we can, to make it the very best medical Journal in the United States.













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